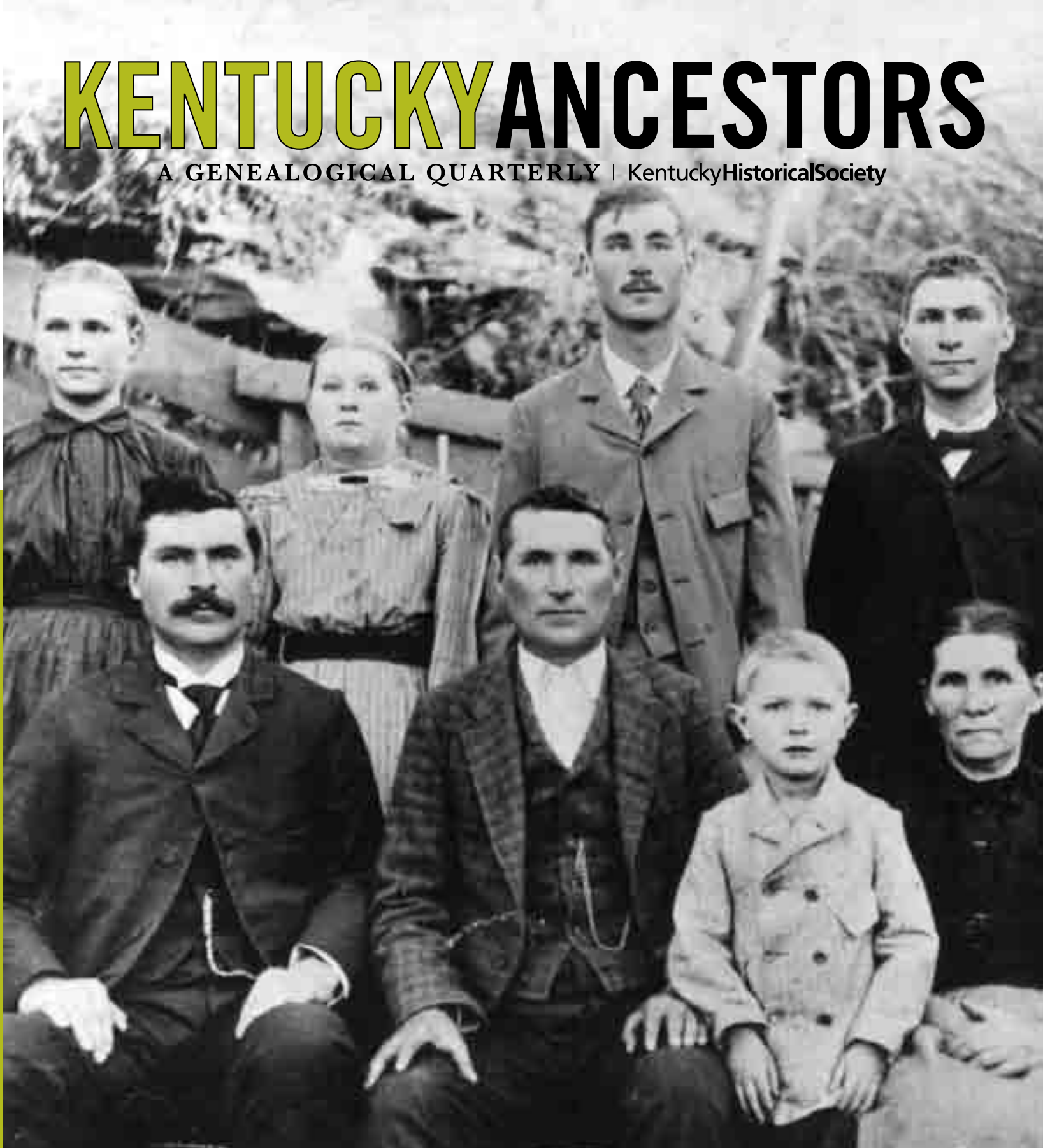


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NEXTISSUE

Volume 44, No. 4
Summer 2009



- Kentucky Tax Lists, 1792-1840: An Overlooked Resource for Kentucky History and Land Title Research
- Kentucky Genealogical Research Possibilities
- Gateway to the Pot of Gold

Volume 44, No. 3
Spring 2009



- Zachariah Riney: Lincoln's First Schoolmaster
- Irish and Scots-Irish Pioneers to Kentucky
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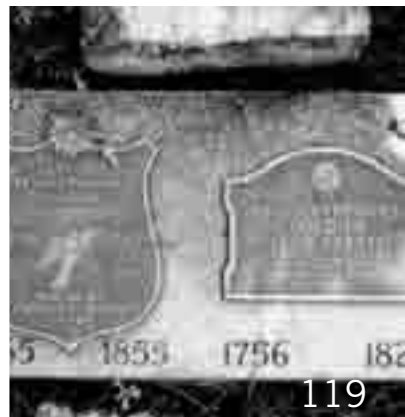
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on the cover

The Freelin Percy family of Wayne County, Kentucky
(Photo courtesy Deborah Percy)

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RELATIONALLY SPEAKING

“Then and Now”

Editor's Note: This was written in the aftermath of the January 27th ice storm which hit much of the state of Kentucky. I have shared my thoughts of the moment with you as we enjoyed this new life experience.

I hope you are not one of my fellow Kentucky citizens who can personally identify with the circumstances this article is based upon. I am sitting here in the family room of my home after five days without power due to the severe winter ice storm much of the Midwest suffered this week.

What I have learned this week is how dependent we have become on our modern conveniences – heat and light at the flick of a switch – technological conveniences that many of our Kentucky ancestors did not have. This article is not intended to be a commentary on our present-day conveniences, but a reminder of the realities of the lives and experiences our ancestors had as they lived here in 1774, 1792, 1820, 1860, 1876 – or even up through much of the twentieth century.

In light of our state's commemoration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth in February 1809, I thought this indefinite period without electrical power would be an excellent time to try out the methods Mr. Lincoln used to read and study. During my five days without electricity, I attempted to read books by both candlelight and the light thrown off by a burning fire. I soon found out that while those were the only methods Abraham Lincoln had for reading in a dark room or after the sun went down in his years growing up in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, I would not recommend them. I gave both experiments a thorough try and decided that in order to accomplish any worthwhile reading, a nice modern-day flashlight with strong batteries was most definitely the way to go.

Before this week, I had never been without electric power more than a few hours – except for camping out, Air Force survival training, and perhaps overnight for a period of a few hours. So, as you and I flesh out our family's history, keep your eyes open for details about what your ancestors experienced in their day-to-day existence – through their diaries, letters, newspaper articles, and local histories.



Don Rightmyer
Editor, *Kentucky Ancestors*
Kentucky Historical Society

Zachariah Riney: Lincoln's First Schoolmaster

by Roger H. Futrell

Much has been written about President Lincoln's Kentucky years, but very little has been recorded about his early childhood education at Knob Creek in present day Larue County, Kentucky.

Thomas Lincoln moved his family from "Lincoln's Birthplace" at the Sinking Spring Farm, near Hodgenville, to "Lincoln's Boyhood Home" on Knob Creek in 1811.¹ The Lincolns lived at the Knob Creek farm from 1811 to 1816, between Abraham's second and seventh birthdays.² Lincoln wrote to Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, Kentucky, in June 1860: "My earliest recollection, however, is of the Knob Creek place."³

President Lincoln began his formal education at a subscription school two miles north of the Knob Creek farm, near the present town of Athertonville. He and his sister Sarah attended the school in 1815 and 1816.⁴ Lincoln's remarks about his early education are taken from a written statement he provided John Locke Scripps of the *Chicago Press and Tribune* in June 1860: "Before leaving Kentucky, he [Abraham Lincoln] and his sister [Sarah] were sent, for short periods, to A B C schools, the first kept by Zachariah Riney, and the second by Caleb Hazel. At this time his father resided on Knob Creek."⁵ Little has been recorded about Riney and Hazel.

Zachariah Riney was a Maryland-born Catholic who died in his nineties at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani.⁶ He was respected in the community, and a pious man of good character.⁷ He never imposed his religious thinking on his pupils.⁸ Caleb

Hazel lived on a farm next to the Lincolns at Knob Creek; he was a surveyor.⁹ When Abraham Lincoln was seven years old, he and his family moved from Knob Creek to today's Spencer County, Indiana, in December 1816.¹⁰

The primitive log schoolhouse that Lincoln attended was located in Hardin County near the fork of the Pottinger's Creek Road and the Old Cumberland Road [U. S. 31-E] which was the main route between Louisville, Kentucky, and Nashville, Tennessee.¹¹ The Lincolns and Rineys lived on opposite sides of the Rolling Fork of Salt River. The school at Knob Creek was about two miles north of the Lincolns and two miles south of the Rineys.¹² Minutes from an 1800 session of the Hardin County Court pinpoint the site of the school; the court order mentions a point where the road from Rolling Fork intersects "the old road near a schoolhouse on Knob Creek."¹³ The Knob Creek school property became part of Larue County in 1843.¹⁴

Knob Creek was a "blab" school where students learned by repeating their lessons aloud, over and over.¹⁵ Lincoln's primary subject was probably spelling. The standard text used at the school was *Dilworth's Speller*, a popular reference in pioneer Kentucky.¹⁶

Kentucky Historical Highway Marker #1482 describes Lincoln's first school:

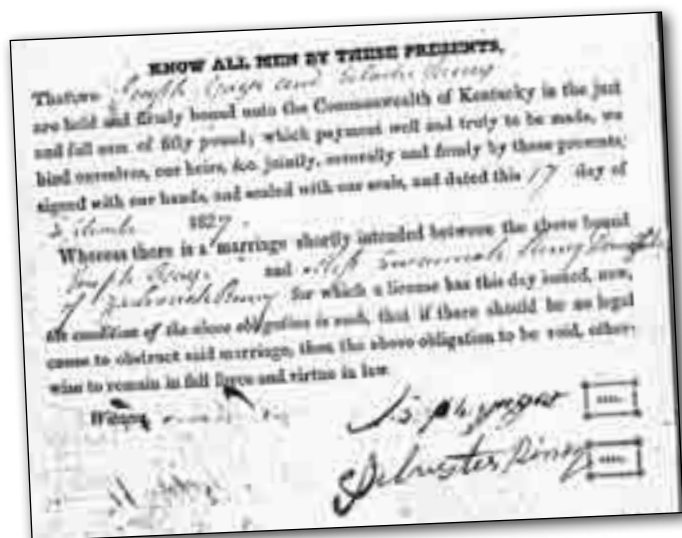
Abraham Lincoln's First School
(Athertonville, US 31-E, Larue Co.)

Lincoln's formal education began in a primitive log cabin near this site. While the Lincoln family was living on Knob Creek, he and his sister Sarah attended ABC schools for a short period of time. First school taught by Zachariah Riney; the second by Caleb Hazel. The Lincolns' home stood 2 miles south on the old Cumberland Road.¹⁷

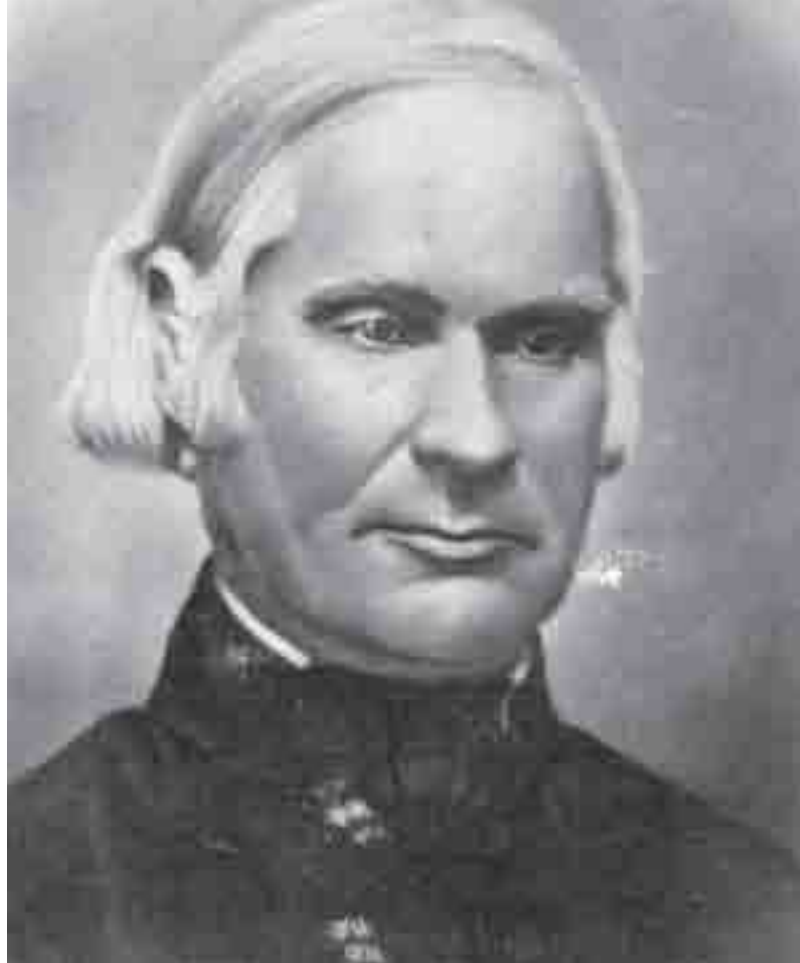
Lincoln's schoolmates included:

1. Susannah "Susan" Riney (Apr 1804/08-Feb 1904)

Zachariah Riney's daughter, Susan Riney, attended Knob Creek school. She married Joseph Yeager, of Washington County, Kentucky, on 18 September 1827;¹⁸ he died before 1850.¹⁹ Mrs. Susan (Riney) Yeager, of Rineyville, Kentucky, was interviewed by the *Elizabethtown News* in November 1897.²⁰ The interview was syndicated and carried nationally.²¹ She told the media that she and President Lincoln attended school together at Knob Creek; that Zachariah Riney was their teacher; that the school was a crude one room log building near Athertonville; that sessions were held during the summer since it was too cold to attend school in winter; that Abraham's older sister, Sarah, attended classes with them; and that she did not realize that the little Abe Lincoln she knew at Knob Creek was the president until after his death.²² News stories indicated that Mrs. Yeager lived out her last days in dire poverty.²³ She died at Stithton, in Hardin County, Kentucky, in February 1904.²⁴ She was buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery.²⁵ Her grave is not marked.²⁶ St. Patrick's



Susannah Riney was a classmate of Abraham Lincoln. She married in Washington County, Ky., in 1827. (*Washington Co., Ky., Marriage Bonds Book 2:54*)



Rev. John B. Hutchins (Photo in *Memorare: St. Mary's College, 150 Years*)

Church property became part of the Fort Knox Military Post in 1920.²⁷ The parish cemetery is all that remains; it is on 701st Tank Destroyer Bn. Road.²⁸

2. John B. Hutchins (1803-1879)

Hutchins, who became a Roman Catholic priest and college president in the Diocese of Louisville, told biographers that he went to a private school in LaRue County with Abraham Lincoln.²⁹ Father Hutchins's younger brother, Thomas Hutchins (1805-1879), probably attended classes there, too. The Hutchins boys' mother, Mrs. Ellen (Brown) Hutchins Bowling, and her second husband, Thomas Bowling, lived on Rolling Fork River and were neighbors of Zachariah Riney.³⁰

Father Hutchins's obituary mentioned his school days:

Rev. John B. Hutchins

Rev. John B. Hutchins born near New Hope, Kentucky. As a boy attended private school in Larue County and had Abraham Lincoln as a schoolmate. Followed Bishop Fenwick to the new diocese of Cincinnati in 1822. First

to receive the tonsure in Ohio. Studies interrupted while he taught at St. Joseph College, Bardstown. Ordained July 1st., 1838 by Bishop Charbrat. Taught at St. Joseph's College, St. Thomas and St. Mary's College in Marion County. Appointed President of St. Mary's College in 1850. Retired to Loretto Motherhouse in 1871 where he died.³¹

3. Austin Gollaher (1806-1898)

Austin Gollaher said that he attended school at Knob Creek with the future president; he lived into his nineties.³² Gollaher indicated that there were about twenty students enrolled at the subscription school. He frequently talked of his childhood friendship with the president. He said that he once saved young Abraham Lincoln's life when he pulled him from the swollen floodwaters of Knob Creek in 1816.³³

Gollaher and Lincoln's friendship is outlined on Kentucky Historical Highway Marker #827:

Lincoln's Playmate

(Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, E. of White City, KY 84, Larue Co.)

To the west, in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, is the grave of Austin Gollaher, 1806-98. Lincoln, while president, once said, "I would rather see (him) than any man living." They were schoolmates and playmates when the Lincoln family lived in this area, 1813 to 1816. Gollaher is credited with rescuing Lincoln from flooded waters of Knob Creek.³⁴

4. Stephen "Steve" Thompson (1810-1872)

Steve Thompson attended school with Lincoln at Knob Creek. His widow, Mrs. Ann Thompson, told R. M. Ford, of Athertonville, that the old Knob Creek School stood where Mr. Ford later kept his horse lot. Mr. Ford documented Mrs. Thompson's statements in a letter that was published in *The LaRue County Herald* on 6 September 1906.³⁵ Stephen and Ann (Bowling) Thompson farmed at Athertonville.³⁶ They are buried in St. Catherine Cemetery at nearby New Haven.³⁷

Zachariah Riney:

Little is known of Zachariah Riney's academic credentials. Since he was thirty-two years old when he moved to Kentucky, he undoubtedly received

his early education in Maryland.³⁸ Zachariah Riney studied for a time under Father Samuel Thomas Wilson, a Dominican priest, who founded the College of St. Thomas Aquinas at St. Rose Priory in Washington County, Kentucky.³⁹ Extant specimens of his handwriting indicate that he was proficient in penmanship.⁴⁰ Riney taught as a means of livelihood. He conducted several schools in both Nelson and Hardin (later Larue) counties.⁴¹



Zachariah Riney signed the Nelson County marriage bond of his daughter, Eleanor, in 1813. (Nelson Co., Ky., loose marriage bonds)

Zachariah Riney was born in 1763 in St. Mary's County, Maryland. He was Roman Catholic. His father, Thomas Riney, died in Washington County, Kentucky, in 1795. Thomas Riney made an unusual stipulation in his will which was probated on 5 November 1795. He directed that: "It is further my will and request that none of my negroes that I now possess and have willed away in the will hereunto annexed shall be sold out of the family of my children and their heirs."⁴²

Zachariah Riney was a member of the Saint Mary's County, Maryland militia in 1794.⁴³ He came to Kentucky, ca.1795, with a group of Catholic colonists that settled on Pottinger's Creek, near Holy Cross, in Washington County. Holy Cross was the first Roman Catholic parish west of the Alleghenies;⁴⁴ it became part of Marion County in 1834.⁴⁵

Riney initially appeared on the Washington County tax rolls in 1796 when he was listed as a "white male over 21 years of age."⁴⁶ U.S. census records indicate that he lived near Holy Cross in



Zachariah Riney House, Hardin Co., Ky. (Kentucky Heritage Council)

1810;⁴⁷ that he lived in the Rolling Fork River neighborhood, in Nelson County, in 1820;⁴⁸ and that he was back in Washington County when the 1830 census schedule was taken.⁴⁹ Riney was a member of the Washington County militia. He was cited for not attending regimental musters.⁵⁰

Zachariah Riney moved from the Holy Cross community to the Rolling Fork River area of Nelson County about 1811. He settled near the present-day town of New Haven.⁵¹ The Rolling Fork River separated Nelson and Hardin counties. Riney lived in Nelson County while he taught school at Knob Creek about two miles south of his home.

Zachariah Riney was married twice. His first wife was named Margaret.⁵² Her maiden name is not known. Their first child, a son christened Thomas, was born before they moved to Kentucky. After Margaret died, Zachariah married Sarah Bolds [Bowles] in Washington County on 12 February 1824.⁵³ Zachariah Riney is known to have had at least five children: Thomas, Susan, Sylvester, John B. Riney, and Eleanor Riney.⁵⁴

Jane Nevitt of Hardin County and Richard Nevitt of Nelson County sold a piece of property to Zachariah Riney for \$500.00 on 17 October 1818. The tract was located on the north bank of the

Rolling Fork River and was bounded by the property of Thomas Bowling.⁵⁵

Zachariah Riney became involved in a law suit over a tract of land that had originally belonged to Joseph Hanks, Sr., a relative of President Lincoln's mother, Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln. The disputed property was on the Rolling Fork River near the mouth of Knob Creek and Pottinger's Creek. Depositions linked Riney's name with those of Joseph Hanks, Sr., Joseph Hanks, Jr., William Hanks, Caleb Hazel, Elizabeth Hazel, and Margaret Riney.⁵⁶ Benedict Compton, the defendant in the chancery suit, swore "that Riney is well versed in little tricks," implying that Zachariah Riney was less than honest in his dealings.⁵⁷

Rineyville, Kentucky:

Zachariah Riney left Washington County after 1830. He settled in Hardin County about 4.5 miles northwest of Elizabethtown in a place long since known as Rineyville.⁵⁸ The Riney family built a house at Rineyville; it was near today's junction of Kentucky highways 220 and 1600. The home still stands;⁵⁹ it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on 5 October 1988.



Abbey of Gethsemani, Trappist, Ky. (KHS Special Collections)

Kentucky Historical Highway Marker #1711 details the Riney home:

Rineyville Named

(Rineyville, KY 220, just west of KY 1600, Hardin Co.) Sylvester Riney gave land for Illinois Central R.R., 1874, and town named for family. Zachariah, his father, was Abraham Lincoln's first teacher while living on Rolling Fork. Zachariah moved to Rineyville site, 1830; built this double log house, later enlarged and clapboarded. Lived here nearly 25 years with his son, Sylvester. His grandson, Mancil G., was first postmaster.⁶⁰

Riney was in Hardin County, Kentucky, in December 1843 when he deeded a parcel of land in Nelson County to Frances Bowling of Nelson County, Kentucky. The deed indicated that Riney obtained the property in 1818. A note on the court's copy of the instrument explained, "Examined and delivered to Thomas Hutchins."⁶¹

Family members indicated that Riney lived with his son Sylvester for over twenty-five years. Eighty-

eight year old "Zack" Riney was with Sylvester Riney, at Rineyville, when the 1850 U.S. census schedule was taken for Hardin County, Kentucky.⁶²

Latter years:

Zachariah Riney of Hardin County, Kentucky, deeded a parcel of land to the Abbey of Gethsemani, on 5 August 1856,⁶³ in exchange for his room and board at the monastery for the remainder of his life. The deed stipulated:

That the said Zachariah Riney for and in consideration of his board at the hotel of Gethsemani has this day granted; and by these presents does grant, alien and convey to the same Peter Bergier [later Abbot Benedict Berger] a parcel of fifty acres on Rolling Fork of Salt River. It being the same land I inherited from Thomas Riney my deceased son.⁶⁴

The Rev. Peter Bergier transferred title to the Zachariah Riney farm to The Abbey of Gethsemani

Corporation on 14 June 1864.⁶⁵

The Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani (Trappist P.O.) was founded in 1848 by Cistercian Monks who live by the Trappist rule of life. The monastery was built about four miles east of New Haven on a 1400 acre farm that had been home to an orphanage operated by the Sisters of Loretto. The Abbey of Gethsemani was within sight of Rohan's Knob where the Cistercians unsuccessfully attempted to establish themselves, near Holy Cross, in 1803. The Abbey would become the oldest and largest Cistercian monastery in the western world.⁶⁶

Riney probably chose Gethsemani for his last residence for several reasons: he most likely knew the first Trappist Monks who had settled at Holy Cross in 1803; he most likely was familiar with the Abbey of Gethsemani since his Rolling Fork property was just a few miles from the monastery; and he most likely wanted to join his grandson, William B. Riney, a monk at Gethsemani. Zachariah did not become a member of the Trappist community, but simply lived as a "familiar brother," much like a resident of a religious retirement home.⁶⁷

Zachariah's grandson, William B. Riney, a son of Sylvester, was known as Frater Benedict among the Cistercians.⁶⁸ He initially studied for the priesthood, but according to tradition, received a head injury which prevented him from completing his priestly studies.⁶⁹ Brother Benedict Mary remained at the Abbey where he taught math and English at Gethsemani College for thirty-five years.⁷⁰

Zachariah Riney lived at the Abbey of Gethsemani for a little over two years. He died there on 15 February 1859 at age 96.⁷¹ Abbot Edmond M. Obrecht told a Louisville newspaper that Zachary Riney was buried at Gethsemani.⁷² He was buried according to the customs of the Catholic Church and the simplicity of the Trappist rule. He was probably wrapped in a simple cloth shroud and placed directly in his grave without the benefit of a coffin. His burial was not recorded in the Abbey's "book of burials" since he was not a member of the Order.

Zachariah died before the present monastery was built. He was buried in the old Sisters of Loretto graveyard on the Gethsemani grounds. The Monks used the Lorette cemetery for their own burials until they built a new monastery in the mid 1860s.⁷³ They moved the bodies of those buried in the Lorette burying ground and re-interred them in a



Grave of Thomas Hutchins (Photo courtesy Roger Futrell)

"common grave" at the new Abbey in 1893.⁷⁴ The mass grave was marked with a large concrete cross.⁷⁵

Zachariah Riney's burial place is off-limits to visitors since it is within the monastic area. The Abbey recently erected a black granite cenotaph that lists all those buried at Gethsemani without individual grave markers. The memorial stone was placed in the lay cemetery, just outside the church entrance. Riney's entry is inscribed: "Zachariah Riney, Lincoln's First Teacher [died] February 15, 1859."⁷⁶ Thomas Hutchins, who is believed to have been a student of Riney, is buried nearby.⁷⁷

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 - ²⁰ *The Elizabethtown News*, Friday, 19 November 1897.
 - ²¹ *Utica* [NY] *Morning Herald*, Friday, 12 November 1897.
 - ²² Interview with Mrs. Susie (Riney) Yeager, *The Elizabethtown News*, Friday, 19 November 1897.
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 - ²⁴ *The Elizabethtown News*, Friday, 5 February 1904.
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 - ²⁶ Mary M. Olson, *St. Patrick Catholic Church History and Records, Stithton, Hardin County, Kentucky, 1831-1920* (Utica, Ky., 1999), 255-280, 338.
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 - ³⁷ Edward Benningfield, *LaRue County, Kentucky Cemeteries* (Hodgenville, Ky., 2003), 1:273-74.
 - ³⁸ Hardin County Historical Society, "Zachariah Riney," *Who Was Who in Hardin County* (Elizabethtown, Ky., 1946), 137.
 - ³⁹ Baylor, "College of St. Thomas Aquinas," *Pioneer History of Washington County, Kentucky*, 180-81.
 - ⁴⁰ James Bowling-Eleanor Riney marriage bond, 7 August 1813; Nelson County Clerk's Office, Bardstown, Ky.
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 - ⁴² *Washington Co., Ky., Will Book*, A:60.
 - ⁴³ Timothy J. O'Rourke, compiler, *Catholic Families of Southern Maryland* (Baltimore, 1985), 90.
 - ⁴⁴ Mattingly, *Catholic Church*, 42.
 - ⁴⁵ Rennick, *Kentucky Place Names*, 188.
 - ⁴⁶ 1796 Washington County, Ky., Tax List.
 - ⁴⁷ 1810 U.S. census, Washington County, Ky., 305.
 - ⁴⁸ 1820 U.S. census, Nelson County, Ky., 218.
 - ⁴⁹ 1830 U.S. census, Washington County, Ky., 208.
 - ⁵⁰ Baylor, "Record of the County Militia to the Summer of 1813," *Pioneer History of Washington County, Kentucky*, 262.
 - ⁵¹ HCHS, "Zachariah Riney," *Who Was Who...*, 137.
 - ⁵² *Riney vs. Compton*, Chancery Bundle, June 1819, Nelson County, Ky., Circuit Court.
 - ⁵³ Washington County, Ky., Marriage Book 1:239.
 - ⁵⁴ Futrell, "Zachariah Riney" *Lincoln Herald*, 74:3 (Fall 1972):138.
 - ⁵⁵ Nelson Co., Ky., Deed Book, 13:181.
 - ⁵⁶ *Riney vs. Compton*, Chancery Bundle, June 1819, Nelson County, Ky., Circuit Court.
 - ⁵⁷ Ibid.
 - ⁵⁸ Brother Benedict, "Lincoln's First School Teacher," *The Times*, Louisville, Ky., Friday evening, 12 February 1909.
 - ⁵⁹ Maria Campbell Brent & Joseph E. Brent, *Lincoln, Kentucky & Kentuckians, A Cultural Resource Inventory Of Sites In Kentucky Associated With President Abraham Lincoln* (Versailles, Ky., 2005), 64-65.
 - ⁶⁰ Wells, *Roadside History*, 205.
 - ⁶¹ Nelson County, Ky., Deed Book, 24:28.

- ⁶² 1850 U.S. census, Hardin County, Kentucky, population schedule, District 3, 356.
- ⁶³ Nelson County, Ky., Deed Book, 30:184.
- ⁶⁴ Ibid.
- ⁶⁵ Father Felix Donahue, "Zachariah Riney, Abraham Lincoln's First School Teacher," *The Nelson County Genealogist*, 2:1 (September 1985):11.
- ⁶⁶ Gethsemani Abbey, *Gethsemani Magnificat: Centenary of Gethsemani Abbey* (Trappist, Ky., 1949), 16-19.
- ⁶⁷ Rev. Paul L. Blakely, S.J., "Lincoln's Teacher and the Trappists," *The Record*, Louisville, Ky., 25 February 1926, 2.
- ⁶⁸ Ibid.
- ⁶⁹ Archival Records, Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani, Trappist, Ky.,
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- ⁷¹ Rev. P.L. Blakely, "Lincoln's Teacher and the Trappists," *America*, 13 February 1926.
- ⁷² *The Times*, 12 February 1909.
- ⁷³ Nelson County Genealogical Round Table, Inc., *Nelson County, Kentucky Cemeteries, Vol. II, Southwest Section (Including Abbey of Gethsemani)* (Bardstown, Ky., 1986), 180, 185-86.
- ⁷⁴ Ibid, 187.
- ⁷⁵ Ibid.
- ⁷⁶ Cenotaph, Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani lay cemetery, Trappist, Ky.; transcribed by Margaret B. Futrell, 2 April 2009.
- ⁷⁷ NCGRT, *Nelson County, Kentucky Cemeteries*, Vol. II, 195.

The History of Kentucky's Office of Secretary of State Website & the Land Office Reference Library

by Kandie P. Adkinson, Administrative Specialist
Land Office Division

(The seventh in a series of articles regarding the Internet availability of Kentucky Land Office records)

It is an established fact that not all historians are genealogists but all genealogists are historians. With a basic understanding of the history timeline, researchers quickly realize grandparents born in the 1880s could not have entered Kentucky with Daniel Boone in the 1770s. The numbers just will not bend. By studying birth and death dates on the family tree, however, genealogists can transform data to individuals with personality and documented accomplishments. For example, if family members were born in the 1840s, were they involved in the Civil War in the 1860s? And by using available resources such as public records, genealogists can verify, or modify, the “They say” assertions of family tradition—“They say she served as Kentucky secretary of state” or “They say he was a delegate to a Kentucky constitutional convention.” The family-tree printed form is a skeleton waiting to be fleshed out; history comes alive as we place our ancestors at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, or Pearl Harbor. Names on our various charts deserve to be remembered for more than their date of birth or date of death. They are not just our ancestors; they are our family.

As we start our genealogical quest, the first records we usually access are family Bibles, census forms, deeds, wills, cemetery listings, obituaries, and vital statistics such as marriages, births, and deaths. On-line family histories may prove helpful

as a “starting point” or, at the very least, they may introduce us to new cousins. Information swaps can provide a wealth of family information and scanned images that enhance our personal research.

Unfortunately, there is a major resource that is often overlooked by genealogists. When patrons enter the book stacks in the Martin F. Schmidt Research Library at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, they see thousands of books and multiple file cabinets. The first instinct is to open a file drawer of family histories or find the book stacks for counties of interest, then peruse the published local records. Occasionally they find the various reports of the Kentucky Adjutant General or they visit the microfilm room. Friends, there is so much more information in that library—and similar repositories throughout the commonwealth. Visit the book stacks dedicated to religion in Kentucky. You may find an ancestor listed with the Traveling Church. Visit the book stacks dedicated to medicine in Kentucky. You may find your ancestor was a professor in the School of Medicine at the University of Louisville. Explore the file cabinets of state and county history. You may find a newspaper article or photograph that mentions a family member.

BIOGRAPHIES OF KENTUCKY'S SECRETARIES OF STATE

Once limited to on-site research, many governmental agencies are scanning their public documents for Internet access. Agencies are also posting information regarding the function and



In December 2005, Secretary of State Trey Grayson announced the launching of the "Office of the Secretary of State History Page" website. All six of the living secretaries attended the special ceremony at Berry Hill. Pictured are: Secretary of State Bob Babbage, Secretary of State Bremer Ehrler, Secretary of State Trey Grayson, Secretary of State Ken Harper, Secretary of State Drexell Davis, and Secretary of State John Y. Brown III.

history of their office. One such project, initiated in the 1980s and originally proposed as a publication, includes biographies of Kentucky's secretaries of state since statehood.

The "Office of the Secretary of State History Page" website was formally launched in December 2005 by Secretary of State Trey Grayson. All six of the living secretaries attended the special ceremony at Berry Hill. How does a database listing Kentucky public officials relate to genealogy? Check the site. You will find documented biographies, written by Drs. Melba Hay and Nelson Dawson of the Kentucky Historical Society, for most of Kentucky's secretaries of state; other biographies will be added in the future. Many of the pages also include official portraits and genealogical information. For example, chronologies of state officials indicate John Brown was appointed Kentucky's first Secretary of State on 5 June 1792. The online database enhances information regarding Secretary Brown by providing his parents' names, Rev. John and Margaret Preston Brown, and the name of his wife, the former Ann "Nancy" Hart, a daughter of Colonel Thomas Hart and a sister of

Mrs. Henry Clay.

The "Timeline" on the Kentucky Secretaries of State Database includes milestones in the function of the office. Did you know the office of secretary of state was appointive until the first elected secretary assumed office in 1896? There was one gubernatorial term (Governor James T. Morehead, 1832-1836) in which the office of secretary of state was held by four appointees.

The complete text for Kentucky's constitutions, as ratified in 1792, 1799, 1850, and 1891, is also included on the "Timeline." Researchers of Kentucky law will enjoy reading the various changes in governmental procedure throughout our 207-plus years; genealogists should not overlook the names of delegates to each constitutional convention and the counties they represented.

The Secretaries of State Database, labeled as "History" in the channel listing on the Land Office Homepage at <http://www.sos.ky.gov/land/>, includes "Secretaries' Biographies" (click the Secretary's name to link to the biography), "Frequently Asked Questions," "Lists & Queries," the "Oath of



A listing of Kentucky's Secretaries of State website is included on the Land Office website, <http://www.sos.ky.gov/land>, in the "History" channel. The website includes biographies and portraits for many of the secretaries that may be of interest to genealogists and historians. Emma Guy Cromwell was the first woman elected to statewide office in Kentucky. As State Librarian and Director of Archives, she located and returned the original Kentucky Constitution to Frankfort from the University of Chicago archives. Mrs. Cromwell served as Kentucky's Secretary of State from 1 January 1924 to 1 January 1928.

Office,” and information regarding the Seal of the Commonwealth and the Seal of the Secretary of State, also known as the “Lesser Seal.”

REFERENCE LIBRARY

In 2001, Jeshua Caudle, then a temporary computer programmer for the Secretary of State’s office, suggested an online glossary would enhance the Land Office website. (Since that time, Jesh has graduated, with honors, from the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky; he continues to serve as the programmer for our various Land Office databases.) The online glossary was immediately developed and is now part of the online “Reference Library.” The site, located at <http://www.sos.ky.gov/land/reference/> includes:

- Online Seminar: Since the late 1980s, Land Office staff have conducted more than one hundred land patent seminars and continuing education classes for historians, elderhostels, Kentucky surveyors, and engineers. The “Online Seminar” allows researchers to access the entire content of the original Land Office program. (Note: A newer Power Point presentation with notes and a special announcement by Secretary of State Trey Grayson is available on the Land Office homepage at <http://www.sos.ky.gov/land/>.)
- Saddlebag Notes: The technical leaflet, “The Kentucky Land Grant System,” first published in the “Saddlebag Notes” section of the May-June 1990 issue of Circuit Rider, published by the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, is one of the most requested handouts generated by the Kentucky Land Office.
- Researching Kentucky Tax Lists: 1792-1840, published by the Kentucky Genealogical Society in the Fall 2002 issue of Bluegrass Roots, provides a summary of legislation approved by the Kentucky General Assembly regarding the collection of state taxes and their value to historians and genealogists.
- The Gazetteer lists the county location for more than 1,000 place names identified in early Kentucky patents, the 1818 Munsell Map, and selected articles. Additional information will be added to the Gazetteer as patents are indexed. For county location of Kentucky watercourses (1835 to present date), visit the County Court Orders Database, and search by “Watercourse.”
- Glossary: What is the difference between a warrant and a survey? The glossary defines more than one hundred terms associated with land patenting.
- Maps: Includes maps donated by Neal Hammon, a Kentucky author, historian, and surveyor. Also included are maps of Kentucky counties and waterways, as well as the Loughridge Map, the Filson Map, and other maps of historical interest.
- Quick Reference Guides provide brief summaries entitled “Kentucky Land Patent Series” and “Key Points to Remember.”
- County Formation Table: Kentucky wills, marriages, and deeds are filed at the local level with the county clerk. When new counties are formed, most records stay in the county in which they originated. The “County Formation Table” identifies county creation dates and the names of “mother counties.”
- Legislation: The land patenting process in Kentucky is the direct result of legislation passed by the Virginia General Assembly (before 1 June 1792) and the Kentucky General Assembly (after 1 June 1792). Researchers are encouraged to access the complete text of the various acts establishing and amending the patenting process. Additional acts pertaining to “the Permanent Revenue” (taxes), academics and seminaries, and miscellaneous topics of historical significance are also included on this website. Text of additional legislation will be added as the acts are identified.
- Resources: Over the years the Kentucky Land Office has researched and acquired a number of publications, articles, and rolls of microfilm regarding the history of Kentucky land. This bibliography represents a listing of many of those resources.
- Links: The links page includes hyperlinks to selected government agencies and professional associations; research libraries and online

databases; genealogy websites; and websites relating to maps and Kentucky locations.

- Kentucky County Officials Information: This website identifies contact information for Kentucky's County Clerks, Property Valuation Administrators, and Circuit Court Clerks.
 - o The Kentucky Land Office is the repository for all records pertaining to Kentucky Land Patents. Subsequent land conveyances, after the grant is issued, are filed on the local level with the county clerk. Land transactions may be recorded with deeds or wills. Mineral leases are also recorded with the county clerk's office. Researchers are encouraged to access the "Quick Guide: County Formation Table" to determine when the county was formed and the names of mother counties. (Records are not usually copied for new counties being established.)
 - o For escheated land sales, identification of current landowners, and maps of land parcels, contact the property valuation administrator for the county you are researching.
 - o For court cases regarding land title and/or mineral rights, contact the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerk for the area you are researching. Older cases may be available from the Research Library, Department for Libraries and Archives, Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, or the Kentucky Supreme Court Law Library, Capitol Building, Frankfort, KY 40601.
- Surveying Measurements: This table provides information regarding metes and bounds measurement and the surveying system for public lands, i.e. range-township-section.

In addition to "Secretary of State Biographies," "Reference Library," and the various databases described in earlier issues of "Kentucky Ancestors," the Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office website also includes the following channels:

- Land Office Order Form: Includes links to online as well as printable order forms for the Kentucky Land Office.

- Database Searches: This page, ideal for bookmarking, provides instant access to all Kentucky Land Office databases. To learn more about the structure and history of the databases included on the site, we encourage researchers to visit the individual pages for each database.
- Land Office Journal: Includes articles of historical and genealogical interest, a calendar of forthcoming seminars & Land Office presentations, online publications—as submitted for inclusion on the website, and press releases.

Governor William S. Taylor's Executive Journal, pg. 56.

"He (Gov. W. S. Taylor) pardoned today Caleb Powers, John W. Davis, John L. Powers, Charles Finley & William H. Culton charged in a warrant with the crime of aiding & assisting in the murder of William Goebel in Franklin County, Ky., on ---- day of March 1900 and as an accomplice in and accessory to said crime, and conspiring to commit same, and says knowing that said charge and warrant is the result of a political conspiracy to terrorize and oppress for political purposes, and also believing implicitly in the absolute innocence of said Caleb Powers, John L. Powers, Charles Finley, and William H. Culton, but realizing that as the courts are now organized, said Caleb Powers, John L. Powers, Charles Finley, and William H. Culton will be denied a fair trial. Pardon is granted."

Signed: W. S. Taylor, Governor of Kentucky

Public records, such as the Governors' Executive Journals (maintained by the Kentucky Secretary of State), can provide significant historical information. This entry from Governor Taylor's 10 March 1900 Executive Journal pardons individuals accused of "aiding and assisting in the murder of William Goebel," Kentucky's thirty-second governor. To see online images and text of Governor Steve Beshear's Executive Journal, access the "Executive" channel at <http://www.sos.ky.gov/executive>. Researchers should also access early "Acts of the General Assembly" for legislative action such as divorces, business incorporations, and specific land transactions. (There is no master index for the "Acts;" each volume includes a general index and, often a separate index for "Local Acts & Private Laws and Resolutions.") Scanned images of "Enacted Legislation" recently approved by the Kentucky General Assembly, are also available under the "Executive" channel.

Next article in this series: "Tax Lists: An Overlooked Resource for Kentucky History and Land Title"

Jesse Copher – One of Daniel Boone’s Salt Makers

By Chester C. Buchanan¹

Little did I realize nearly thirty years ago while reading *The Frontiersmen*² and then sometime later, *Daniel Boone*,³ that Jesse Copher, a secondary character in these books, was my 4th great grandfather. It was not until I began searching my family history over ten years ago that I discovered my ancestral link with Jesse. He was captured by the Shawnees with Daniel Boone in 1778 and escaped from British occupied Detroit with Simon Kenton in 1779. His association with these frontier stalwarts of Kentucky inspired me to learn more about him. Belue (1994)⁴ and Brown (1985)⁵ have given good snapshots of Jesse’s activities with Boone and Kenton that began with a one-month salt making detail in January 1778, but they did not reveal much about the remainder of his life on the Kentucky frontier. Following is his story as I determined it from academic publications, historical records, and family remembrances collected by Lyman Draper in the 1800s.

Jesse was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, on 29 June 1756,⁶ to Thomas Cofer (ca. 1715–1791) and Mary (maiden name unknown); the sixth of ten children. If family remembrances are correct, Jesse in his later years was about six feet tall, weighed about 175 to 180 pounds, had blue eyes, a sandy complexion, and a good character. William Rowell wrote Draper in 1884 that Jesse “was a man of good repute was a firm friend to a friend but had nothing to do with those whom he did not like.”⁷

Capture of Daniel’s Salt Makers

Jesse’s life on the frontier was set in motion in the spring of 1777 when Indian tribes north of the Ohio River began a relentless attack against the Kentucky frontier, forcing settlers to take refuge in stockades for several months. The refugees sent urgent appeals to the east for relief, which ultimately came from Virginia and North Carolina. Col. John Bowman arrived at Boonesborough in August with one hundred Virginia militiamen, while Capt. William Bailey Smith reached the fort the next month with about fifty North Carolinians, including George Boone (Daniel’s brother).⁸ Close behind in October was Capt. Charles Watkins with his Virginia militia company of fifty or so men from Bedford County.

Capt. Watkins had been ordered several months earlier by the Commonwealth of Virginia to form a militia company of volunteers for a six-month detail to protect the western frontier. After taking the Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth on 1 September 1777,⁹ in Bedford County, twenty-one-year old Jesse and at least twelve other men joined Watkins’ company for forty shillings a month. The company was soon formed and began its march to the Kentucky frontier, arriving at Boonesborough on 12 October 1777.¹⁰ Ansel Goodman wrote in his 1832 military pension application that upon their arrival at the fort, the company was “placed under the command ... of Col. Boone, and acted in the capacity of defenders of the fort against the enemy and also as Indian spies.”¹¹

Jesse's joining the militia expeditionary force raises a question: Why would he want to leave the safety of the eastern Blue Ridge to join a force destined for the *Kanta-Ke*¹² frontier, soon to be referred to as that "Dark and Bloody Ground?" We will never know for sure, but I believe it was to satisfy a combination of desires. Obviously at that time there was a sense of Revolutionary War patriotism and of course, he probably had a young man's desire for adventure. There was also the relative safe passage a militia escort would provide to the frontier, where quality farmland was rumored to be nearly free for the taking. If he remained in Culpeper County, his many siblings would reduce his chances of inheriting much land, if any, from his father and without a sizable monetary inheritance it would take years for him to save enough money, if ever, to buy a farm.

As winter approached, the food stores of Boonesborough, especially corn and salt, were critically low. Salt was essential for preserving meat and for making the bland dishes of cornmeal and wild greens halfway palatable. The threat of Indian attacks had prevented the settlers from replenishing their salt supply and replanting crops previously destroyed by the Indians. So, in early January 1778, Jesse was assigned to a thirty-four-man detail under the command of Daniel Boone to make salt by boiling down water from a salt spring. Carrying 30-35 gallon kettles on horseback, along with other supplies, the detail left the fort on 8 January for the Lower Blue Licks salt spring, about forty-five miles away on the Licking River. For a month the men labored in the bitter cold, repeatedly filling the kettles with saltwater, chopping and hauling wood to feed the rendering fires, scraping and collecting coarse, brown salt from inside the kettles, and sacking it for delivery to the fort.

Near the end of the detail, while hunting for deer to feed his men, Daniel was captured by members of a large Shawnee force advancing on Boonesborough. Since Daniel was concerned that the Indians would kill his men, he convinced those in camp on 8 February to surrender.¹³ George W. Ranck stated in his exposition of Boonesborough that "[t]he loss of 27 [29¹⁴] men, including such a leader [Daniel Boone], out of so small a fighting force was by far the greatest calamity that had yet befallen the pioneers, and caused consternation, grief, and discouragement at all the stations, especially at Boonesborough."¹⁵

The Shawnees prodded their prisoners to Old Chillicothe¹⁶ on the Little Miami River. Faragher (1992) reasoned that "[m]ost of the Americans were young men who had signed into the Virginia militia in a burst of revolutionary patriotism, with little or no experience in the western wilderness, and they suffered greatly."¹⁷ The ten-day march north was slow and tedious through deep snow during severely cold weather. Some days they only had slippery elm bark to chew. During the day many of the prisoners were forced to carry plunder or heavy packs and during the night they were tightly bound with rawhide and slept without shelter. Their first night in the village (18 February) was dreadful for the prisoners; they were forced to run a gauntlet, and several were severely whipped and clubbed. During the next three weeks, Boone and fourteen of his men were adopted by the tribe, while the remaining fourteen men, including Jesse, were considered too "pig-headed" for adoption.¹⁸ These men were taken to the British at Detroit (a twenty-day march that started on 10 March) in exchange for £20 worth of trade merchandise for each man (scalps were worth only £10).

Escape from Detroit

About a year after being sold to the British, Jesse and Nathaniel Bullock (a fellow salt maker) teamed with another prisoner, Simon Kenton,¹⁹ to escape from Detroit. Many accounts of their escape have been written, but most were based primarily on family remembrances that have as much variation among themselves as there are family members passing them down through the generations. Belue noted the limitation of family remembrances when he wrote "as kith and kin gathered around hearths and dinner tables to hear the old stories and family histories, yarns and lore evolved from 'hearsay' and 'myth' into 'truth' and 'fact.'"²⁰ Recognizing such limitations, R. W. McFarland²¹ believes that the most reliable descriptions of the trio's escape are those by historians who interviewed Kenton, notably, John A. McClung²² and Col. John McDonald.²³ I would also include John J. James.²⁴ Following is my synopsis of the escape as presented by these historians.

The three men started their thirty-day escape trek (maybe thirty-three days) to the Falls of the Ohio (present day Louisville, Kentucky) in early June.²⁵ In order to avoid hostile Indians along the Great Miami and Scioto rivers, knowing that it meant a horribly

slow death if caught, they traveled west from Detroit along Lake Erie, then down the Wabash River, and finally up the Ohio River to the Falls of the Ohio. In preparation for their escape, Kenton used money he made from doing odd jobs around the town to purchase two guns from a couple of Indian traders he got drunk. After hiding the guns in the nearby woods, he convinced Mrs. Edgar, whose husband ran a trading store in Detroit, to give him another rifle along with a pouch of musket balls and a horn of powder. In this way, each of the escape team was armed. After hiding the third gun, the men decided on an escape night and rendezvous. Kenton told James that “[w]e set off and traveled 14 nights lying by all day until we got somewhere near where Fort Wayne now is. We lived on coons and often had as high as 3 of a night. We then traveled by day.”

The trio arrived at the Falls of the Ohio just a few days after Jesse’s twenty-third birthday - he had been on the frontier for nearly two years. Little did he realize at the time that he was indirectly associated with two famous episodes in Kentucky frontier history: 1) Simon Kenton’s torturous Mazeppa ride on a wild horse before the Shawnee delivered him to the British, and 2) the adoption of Daniel Boone by the Shawnees as “Sheltowee” (Big Turtle) after he was captured with the salt makers.

Kentucky Militia Service

After reaching the Falls of the Ohio in early July, Jesse and Bullock probably convalesced for a week or so before returning to active militia duty at Boonesborough.²⁶ As a militiaman, Jesse’s duties would have been to guard the stockade against Indian attack, serve on patrols looking for signs of Indian activity in the region, and join hunting parties that provided meat for the garrison. In addition to these duties, some militiamen occasionally supplied their own rations. For example, a receipt in General George Rogers Clark’s papers²⁷ indicates that Jesse, along with Bullock and others, while serving under the command of Capt. David Gass at Boonesborough, provided their own rations from 1 September through 8 December 1779 (figure 1).

Hunting was a dangerous duty for the militiamen because their rifle reports would signal nearby Indians of their presence. George Bedinger told Draper that while serving at Boonesborough in 1779, “[t]he men in the garrison were divided into hunting squads of

R 48

Kentucky June 9th 1780 I Do Certify
 That William Meigs Joseph Donah
 phan William Cradle brought
 John Callaway Edward Nelson
 Elanders Callaway Jesse Hodges
 Stephen Hancock William
 Hancock Samuel Estill Peter
 Hacket Edward Herrod John
 Bullock James Berry Benjamin
 Donaway Walter Welch William
 Peterson Nathaniel Bullock
 Jesse Copher & James Davis
 found their own Rations from
 the first Day of Sept 1779 till the
 8th Dec. They being Soldiers in
 Actual Service of Capt David
 Gass Comp: at Boonesburg in
 All 99 Rations each James Crabbe Com:
 57128-

Figure 1. Ration voucher issued by James Trabue on 8 June 1780, for Jesse Copher and nineteen other men at Boonesborough.

4 to 5 each.”²⁸ At dusk, men in the hunting party would slip out of the stockade one at a time to meet at a predetermined location several miles away. Once gathered back together, they would lay low until near dark the following day. If sufficient game was available in the area, the hunters would harvest what they needed, dress out the animals, and then pack the meat to the fort before daybreak, otherwise, they would move to another location, repeating the process until they obtained sufficient meat.

After his militia service at Boonesborough, Jesse served in two militia expeditions against the Shawnees – 1780 and 1782. In late June 1780, a large Indian force led by British officers with two cannons, killed about twenty settlers and captured several hundred at Martin’s and Ruddell’s stations. Many of the prisoners who could not keep up

with the retreating Indians were tomahawked on the spot.²⁹ General Clark immediately planned a retaliatory strike against the Indian force and ordered that every four out of five militiamen rendezvous at the mouth of the Licking River. Jesse joined the expedition on 12 July for a forty-day tour of duty as a private in Capt. Holder's company under the command of Col. Benjamin Logan.^{30, 31} By the end of July about a thousand men had assembled. The force crossed the Ohio River on August 2 to attack Old Chillicothe about seventy miles upstream on the Little Miami and then to attack nearby Piqua Town on the Mad River. Most of the Indians escaped the slow moving militia, so no decisive battles took place, though both sides lost about twenty men each in skirmishes. The Indian towns were burned and crops destroyed. The thirty-one day operation accomplished little other than the building of two blockhouses at present day Cincinnati.

General Clark organized a second expedition against the Shawnees in late 1782. He called up the militia after the Indians ambushed and defeated the Kentucky militia at the Battle of Lower Blue Licks in August – the last battle of the Revolutionary War where sixty-six militiamen were killed. Thirty nine companies, nearly 1,200 mounted troops, assembled at the mouth of the Licking River in late October. Jesse rode with Capt. Downing's company from Lincoln County as a private for a one-month tour of duty (24 October to 24 November 1782). The mounted militia crossed the Ohio River quickly on 4 November, but as with the previous expedition, the Indians escaped north as the militia advanced. Only minor skirmishes occurred while a number of buildings and crops were burned. Since winter was approaching, the militia returned to Kentucky and disbanded on 17 November. This was the last of Jesse's documented militia activities.

General Assembly Petitions

While at Boonesborough in 1779, Jesse signed two petitions to the General Assembly of Virginia. The first petition, No. 8, was signed on 14 October 1779. According to Robertson (1914),³² the petition was "a pitiful wail by the 'distressed inhabitants' of the county of Kentucky, who saw men surveying thousand-acre tracts, when they had not so much as a hundred and in some cases none at all." This was a grievance against unfair land allocation and related

qualifications under the Land Act of 1776.

The second petition, No. 9, signed on 16 October 1779, requested that a town be formed at "Boonsfort." Robertson states that this was the first request from Kentucky for the formation of a town. In support of their appeal, the petitioners listed the names of Boonesborough men who were taken and/or killed by Indians in the last couple of years - prominent among them were Daniel Boone and his salt makers (including Jesse).

Surname Spelling Variations

This is a good point to pause in our story to discuss spelling variations of Jesse's surname: Copher, Cofer, Coffey, and Coker. Such variations are important in determining if a particular document is referring to the subject of this article or to someone else. The Copher spelling, which Jesse and a couple of his brothers began using in the later 1700s, is a derivation of Cofer, the spelling Jesse's father and other siblings used. Cofer and Coffey spellings commonly occurred in early Kentucky records, but the Coker spelling only occurred in the petitions discussed above and in two militia muster rolls associated with the 1780 and 1782 expeditions against the Shawnee. For three reasons listed below, I believe that Jesse Coker listed in these documents and Jesse Copher described in this article are the same person.

First, on three of the four original documents that I examined, Jesse signed his surname as Copher (Assembly Petitions No. 9 and 63, and Petition No. 20 to the Clarke County Circuit Court), while his signature on Assembly Petition No. 8 resembled the name Coker.³³ Robertson (1914) misread Jesse's signatures on Assembly Petition No. 9 as Cokker. I have no explanation as to why Jesse signed Assembly Petition 8 as Coker, especially since he signed Assembly Petition No. 9 as Copher only two days later at the same place (Boonesborough). I believe the Coker signature is Jesse's because the signature style is similar to that used on the other petitions (figure 2) and over eighty percent of the thirty-three men who signed Assembly Petition No. 9 also signed Assembly Petition No. 8. Could it just be a sloppy signature? Many signatures on Assembly Petition No. 8 are too sloppy to discern each letter, especially when compared to the same on Assembly Petition No 9.

Second, it was common during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries for scribes to be

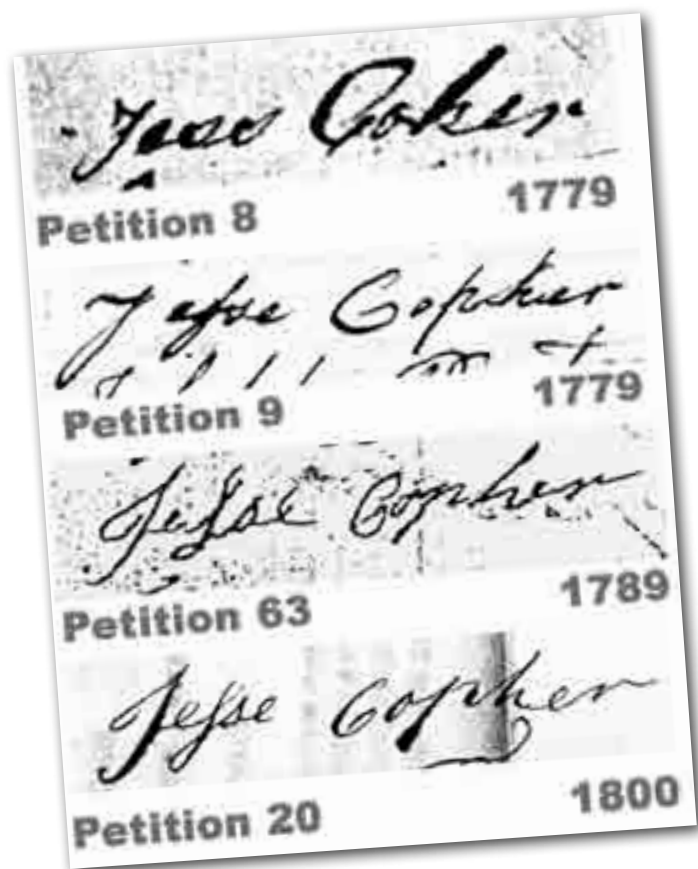


Figure 2. A comparison of Jesse Copher's signatures on four petitions over a twenty-one-year period

rather casual when spelling surnames; even individuals commonly changed the spelling of their own surnames. For example, on the same page of Assembly Petition No. 9 where Jesse clearly signed his name as Jesse Copher, a scribe listed Jesse Coker, along with a number of other men, as being taken prisoner by the Indians in the last two years. There is no doubt that the scribe should have written Copher instead of Coker because twenty-three of the twenty-nine captured salt makers were listed here with "Coker." To compound the mix-up even more, two of the four salt makers who signed the petition misspelled their own names; Bullock should have been Bullock, and Hancock should have been Hancock.

Third, though the name Jesse Coker appears in the militia muster rolls for George Rogers Clark's expeditions in 1780 and 1782,³⁴ it is likely Jesse Copher because he was associated with the two militia units (Boonesborough and Lincoln County, respectively) when he was called up for the expeditions. For example, in the 1780 expedition, a third of the men on the muster roll, including Jesse, were from Boonesborough (under the command of Capt. John Holder), the same place where Jesse

served in the militia just a few months earlier. The case for the 1782 expedition has less evidence to support Jesse Copher over Jesse Coker. At the time Capt. Downing's Lincoln County militia was called up, Jesse was either living at George Boone's Station or on his Tates Creek property - both were in Lincoln County. Also, I have not found any other Lincoln and Fayette County records for Jesse Coker.

They Met and Married

Before I present my basis for when and where Jesse and Elizabeth Boone met and married, it is best that I tell you a little about Elizabeth and her parents. Her father, George Boone, was born on 2 January 1739, in Exeter Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, and her mother, Nancy (Anne) Linville, was born in 1744 in Augusta, Frederick County, Virginia. George was a younger brother of Daniel Boone, and Nancy was the first cousin to Daniel's wife, Rebecca Bryan. Elizabeth was born on 21 July 1765,³⁵ in either the area known as the Forks of the Yadkin River in present day Davie County, North Carolina, or along the Upper Yadkin River near present day Wilkesboro, North Carolina.³⁶ Elizabeth would ultimately become the oldest of twelve children born to George and Nancy. Sometime during 1780, George and his family of eight children, ranging in ages from one to fifteen years old, crossed the Appalachian Mountains on Boone's Trace³⁷ to the Bluegrass region of the Kentucky frontier.

When and where Elizabeth and Jesse met is contingent on when her parents moved to Kentucky and where Jesse was living at that time. Based on information collected by historian Lyman Draper, land transactions, and militia service, I have two hypotheses as to when George moved his family to Kentucky - both of which are plausible.³⁸ In the first hypothesis, George travels to Kentucky without his family in 1779 as either part of the great Boone-Bryan migration in September or a few months earlier with another party. Until he returns the following summer to collect his family, he scouts the land and files two land transactions. The second hypothesis is the same as the first, except that George returns to North Carolina before winter. In the spring, he again travels to Kentucky without his family to make land filings, then returns to North Carolina to collect his family for the final trip to

Kentucky.³⁹ The 400-mile journey would have taken them about a month.

As to the second hypothesis, it is unlikely that George would have moved his family during early spring because high creek flows and muddy trail conditions resulting from the severe winter of 1779/80⁴⁰ would have made horseback travel extremely difficult for his family. The most practical time for moving them would have been July and August after the land had dried a little, which fits well with the timing of George's 1780 land entries (May and June). So, in both of my hypotheses, George returns to North Carolina in July, packs up his family and leaves for Kentucky in late July or early August - arriving at Boonesborough in time for his militia service (6 September).

Though I favor the first hypothesis, it is immaterial from the story standpoint which is correct because both have Elizabeth arriving in Kentucky at the same time and place. What is material about the hypotheses is that they provide Jesse an excellent opportunity in 1779 to meet George for the first time. Since Jesse was stationed at Boonesborough from September through at least December 1779, he could have met George when Daniel Boone arrived with his great emigration from North Carolina - assuming that George was part this group. Since Daniel would have obviously been very happy to learn that two of his former salt makers (Jesse and Bullock) had survived and safely escaped from Detroit, he would have been eager to introduce them to his brother.⁴¹

The most obvious time and location for Jesse and Elizabeth to have met was late August 1780 at Boonesborough. Jesse had recently been discharged on 25 August (likely at Boonesborough) from his forty-day militia assignment against the Shawnee, and George had recently arrived with his family - soon to start his thirty-eight day tour with the Boonesborough militia on 8 September. She was hardly fifteen years old and he was twenty-four years old.

I am sure Elizabeth's arrival at Boonesborough turned a few young bachelor heads. Even though hundreds of land hungry settlers were flocking to the frontier in 1780, the presence of a young, unmarried woman in the stockade would have been rare, especially in comparison to the number of eligible bachelors. I would not be surprised if Jesse, along with a number of other young militiamen, did not

hang around the stockade a little longer after their discharge, rather than leave immediately for their land claims.

Samuel Boone told Draper that his parents (George and Nancy) stayed only a short time at Boonesborough in 1780, then visited Bryan's Station for a short period, assumingly to visit their relatives and maybe later to stop at nearby Boone's Station that Daniel had recently established.⁴² I do not know where they spent the winter of 1780/81, but in 1781, George assisted William Hoy with building Hoy's Station - about five to six miles south of Boonesborough - and had placed claims on nearby lands along Calloway and Tates creeks. It seems likely that George and Nancy spent the winter of 1781/82 at Hoy's Station since Spraker reported that Samuel was born there in 15 January 1782.⁴³ Also, sometime around this period, George established his own station about two miles northwest of present-day Richmond on Tates Creek.⁴⁴

In the meantime, Jesse might have moved to his property on Tates Creek (Buffalo Creek branch), within a couple of miles of where William Hoy and George would build their stations. Or, he might have waited at Boonesborough until George was ready to travel south - a larger traveling party would have provided more protection. I would not be surprised if Jesse assisted with the building of both stations - another good pair of hands is always useful in building a station and it would have been a good way for him to impress his future father-in-law. My assumption is that Elizabeth and Jesse married in the summer or fall of 1781, after she turned sixteen. This fits well with the birth of her first child, Nancy Boone Copher, who was born on 16 October 1782. Since George and his brother, Squire, were frontier Baptist ministers, might one of them have married the young couple?

Land Acquisitions and Family Life in Kentucky

Thomas Clark (1995) described the last quarter of the eighteenth century as "a virtual land-hungry frenzy created by word-of-mouth reports on the availability of rich western lands at modest cost."⁴⁵ Jesse joined the frenzy to acquire suitable farmland - he was a farmer by nature, particularly because he was too clumsy to be a professional hunter.⁴⁶ By 1779, immigrants had caused a patchwork of overlapping boundary claims in the Bluegrass region that would take years to unravel. Jesse, along with the majority

of the settlers, would become knee deep in the litigation quagmire to perfect their land titles, with many coming out on the losing end.

The Court of Virginia Land Commission was established in 1779 to appraise land claims, and to issue land warrants⁴⁷ for claims they validated. Hearings began on 14 October 1779, at Logan's Station, then progressed to Harrodsburg, Louisville, Boonesborough, and last at Bryan's Station with the final adjournment on 26 April 1780. Jesse bought Treasury Warrant 1334 for 1,000 acres from the Logan's Station Land Court on 16 October 1799, and acquired Settlement Certificate and Preemption Warrant 178 at the Boonesborough Land Court on 22 December 1779. Through a private transaction, he became the assignee of Treasury Warrant 7934. Many years after the land courts, Jesse bought more property through a private transaction with the owner. Over a period of several years, Jesse would ultimately claim or purchase eight parcels of land totaling 3,711 acres, of which, he would lose about two-thirds to prior claims (table 1).

By 25 May 1780, Jesse had entered claims for 500 acres on Bates Creek (in present day Madison County) and 1,900 acres on Stoners Fork (in present day Clark County). The Stoners Fork parcel associated with his Settlement Certificate contained Bramblett's Lick.⁴⁹ He divided his Bates Creek land

into two 250-acre parcels. He surveyed and sold one parcel to Higgason Grubbs in 1781, while the other parcel probably remained unimproved because it was not surveyed until 1783. He sold it the following year to William Hancock.

Jesse and Elizabeth probably lived with or near her parents for a couple of years – at least through 1782, if not until 1786.⁵⁰ This assumption is supported by Jesse's service in the Lincoln County militia during the 1782 fall expedition against the Shawnee. The Indian situation was too risky to be improving land by oneself in a remote area⁵¹ and it is only logical that Elizabeth as a young woman would want to have her mother near for the birth of her first child, Nancy (1782). Also, their second child, Thomas (1784), was likely born here.

Shortly after Jesse returned from the second Shawnee expedition, he entered claims on 23 December 1782, for 750 acres on Raven Creek near the confluence of Raven Run with the Kentucky River (Fayette County) and 293 acres on Stoners Fork, near his other claims on the same waterway. Raven Creek seems like it was the first property Jesse occupied after marrying, but probably not before 1787. Chenault⁵² stated in his 1882 newspaper article about Madison County, that "[t]here were not many settlements outside the stations of Hoy and Tanner before 1787 ... [i]nside of these stations was

Table 1. Acreage acquired by Jesse Copher in Lincoln and Fayette counties				
Location	Acquisition Process	Acres Acquired	Acres Lost	Acres Sold
Tates Cr., Lincoln Co.	Treasury Warrant 1334	250	0	250
Tates Cr., Lincoln Co.	Treasury Warrant 1334	250	0	250
Stoners Fork, Fayette Co. ⁴⁸	Treasury Warrant 1334	500	500	0
Stoners Fork, Fayette Co.	Settlement Certificate	400	400	0
Stoners Fork, Fayette Co.	Preempt. Warrant 178	1000	1000	0
Raven Cr., Fayette Co.	Treasury Warrant 7934	750	600	150
Raven Cr., Fayette Co.	Treasury Warrant 7934	293	257	36
Pretty Run, Fayette Co.	Bought from private land owner	268	0	268
Totals		3,711	2,757	954

the safest part of the county.” The Stoners Fork area probably was not much better. For example Tracy’s Station built between Little Stoner and Stoners Fork, about 2.5 miles south of Jesse’s land on Stoners Fork, was attacked several times in 1784 and 1785 resulting in a few cabins being burned.⁵³

It seems that Jesse moved his family to Raven Creek about 1787,⁵⁴ where two more children were added to the family: Mary (1787) and Phoebe (1790). Initially, Jesse, along with one or two adult slaves, would have built a rather crude log cabin to temporarily shelter his family while some of the land was cleared for farming and corrals were built for his ten horses and sixteen head of cattle. The one room cabin would have had a bare earthen floor, one or two doors, gun ports for windows, a soil roof, and maybe a loft for the children to sleep. As the luxury of time permitted, a new one-room, hand-hewn log home would be built on a stone foundation with wood slab or split log flooring, and a shingled roof. An exterior stone, mud, and wood chimney would form a massive fireplace that dominated one side of the room. Later, a porch and shuttered windows would be added, interior walls plastered, and the exterior weather-boarded. As the family expanded other log rooms could be attached to the home and/or a second floor added. Ultimately, it would resemble a nice plantation (farm) house of the early nineteenth century.

As with most settlers, Jesse raised crops of corn, tobacco, and hemp on his Raven Creek tillable land, which was located inland from the palisades of the Kentucky River. He used the ravine formed by Raven Creek, which connected with the Raven Run canyon, to carry his farm produce around the palisades so it could be loaded onto rafts and floated to downstream markets, sometimes all the way to New Orleans. Since hogsheads of tobacco had to be inspected before shipment, Jesse and others petitioned the Virginia Assembly in 1789 to establish an inspection station on the north side of the Kentucky River, thereby eliminating the need to ferry their produce across the river to another station.⁵⁵

Jesse’s Raven Creek claim⁵⁶ is a good example of the Kentucky land title mess at the time. To Jesse’s dismay, Henry Bell⁵⁷ received a patent in 1790 for 2,400 acres that completely encompassed Jesse’s claim on Raven Creek. The counterclaim (Bell’s patent) and the fact that he had not yet received a grant to his land, did not discourage Jesse from selling some of

the land. In 1792, he sold 200 acres of his claim to Bringsley B. Barnes⁵⁸ for £100 and in 1799, he sold 101 acres to his niece’s husband, Stephan Ham.⁵⁹ In spite of Bell’s patent, Jesse was granted a patent in 1800 for his overlapping 750-acre claim! About this time, Jesse must have seen the writing on the wall, because he bought 600 acres of Bell’s overlapping claim to assure the title for the land he had already sold. In 1804 he sold 164 acres⁶⁰ to Nathaniel Prather, including a house and buildings, and then in 1806 he sold his claim to Bell’s patented land to a neighbor, Benjamin Gill, for five shillings. Jesse’s sales only accounted for 465 acres of the 600 acres he purchased from Bell. I could not find any records for the remaining 135 acres.

Sometime around 1790 or 1791, Jesse moved back to Madison County.⁶¹ Since I could not find any land transactions for Jesse during this time period, I assume that he rented land or lived with Elizabeth’s parents, who lived in the same tax district as Jesse.⁶² Jerusha, their fifth child, was born here about 1793.

In 1794, Jesse moved to his Settlement Certificate parcel on Stoners Fork⁶³ in the recently formed Clark County. The move did not solve his land title problems, because six years later, Hugh Forbes challenged both his settlement and preemption claims to 1,400 acres on Stoners Fork. Together, they petitioned Clark County (petition number 20) to appoint two men to arbitrate a solution. I could not find the results of the arbitration, but it is obvious from tax records that Jesse lost his claims.⁶⁴ Until Jesse bought 268 acres of first rate land on nearby Pretty Run in 1806, he either continued to live on his Settlement Certificate parcel, or he moved to his last parcel on Stoners Fork, both of which were classified as second rate land for tax purposes.⁶⁵ Therefore, his next five children were born on Stoners Fork: Sarah (1795), Samuel (1797), Udoshia (1799), Hettie (1803), and David (1805). The last of their children, Ellender (my 3x great grandmother), was born in 1808 either on Stoners Fork, or on Pretty Run shortly after the family moved there.

Since much of Kentucky was still pristine in the late 1700s and early 1800s, I assume that Jesse had to build a log house each time he moved and each time a larger one for his growing family: Elizabeth had eleven children (three boys and eight girls) over a twenty-four year period – roughly one child every 2.5 years. At most, however, only eight children lived

at home at any one time. For example, in 1805 the following children were likely living at home; Mary, eighteen; Phoebe, fifteen; Jerusha, twelve; Sarah, ten; Samuel, eight; Udosha, six; Hettie, two; and David, a newborn. As for the other children, Nancy, who was twenty-three years old in 1805, had married Levi Thomas Taul in 1799, Thomas, now nineteen years old, would marry Hetty Gay in June, and Ellender would not be born for another two to three years.

Purchase of land on Pretty Run finally provided Jesse and Elizabeth with land that was free of any title encumbrances – a piece of quality land that could be developed into a productive farm. They lived there for fourteen years, and during that time they encouraged their children to live near them by selling parts of their farm to them.⁶⁶ In 1811, they sold to their eldest son, Thomas, one hundred acres of their Pretty Run farm for merely five shillings, while in 1814, they sold twenty-eight acres of their farm to their son-in-law, William Nesbit (husband of their daughter, Mary) for \$448. Could these two transactions show a little favoritism?

Interesting Side Points

As was common on the frontier, payment for goods and services was not always in cash, but in like value of commodities or livestock. For example, in a 1799 settlement of a land dispute with Daniel Scrugham concerning 101 acres on Raven Creek, Jesse agreed to accept in exchange for the land, “one hundred pounds payable in horses, to be valued and delivered as said Scrugham could raise them the colts from a fine young [sic] mare he then owned.” By 1810, only ninety pounds worth of colts had been delivered, so Scrugham paid the remainder of the debt “in cotton raised in the river bottom and coopers stuff.”⁶⁷ In another example, Jesse in 1806 gave his note to Nathaniel Parrish for twenty-one dollars to be repaid by 1 January 1807. The note could be “discharged with hemp at the Lexington market price delivered to Lexington or crop tobacco inspected on Kentucky River.”⁶⁸

An unusual land transaction occurred on 2 September 1815, when George Boone (Elizabeth's second cousin, George Washington Boone, son of Josiah, Jr.) and his second wife, Leah (Spencer), sold 1,375 acres on Salt Lick Creek in Bath County, Kentucky to Jesse for one dollar.⁶⁹ Over the next four years, Jesse and Elizabeth divided the land into

parcels of various sizes, and then sold most of them for only one dollar each. They sold four small parcels (about 80 acres each) to their married daughters: two to Mary Nesbit and two to Nancy Taul. Though there is no evidence, this may have been a pre-arranged agreement to dispose of George's debts while he moved to Indiana.

War of 1812

It has long been mistakenly reported that Jesse was a Captain in the War of 1812. Spraker (1922) may have started this misconception when she wrote “[i]n the War of 1812 he [Jesse] was Captain of the Kentucky Militia Volunteers, commanded by Col. Richard Davenport.”⁷⁰ The confusion relates to Capt. Jesse Coffee of Casey County. Coffee's First Company was assigned to the 6th Regiment of Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia under the command of Lt. Col. Richard Davenport from 26 August 1813, to 9 November 1813.^{71, 72} Besides, Jesse Copher was too old for military service in 1812; he was fifty-seven years old. Jesse's son, Thomas, was a Sergeant in Capt. Thomas Wornall's Company, 36th Regiment of Kentucky Mounted Volunteer Militia in 1812, and by 1813, Thomas was a Captain of his own company in the same regiment.⁷³

Bound for the Missouri Territory

Ever since the Indian war in western Missouri Territory had ended in 1815, interest in acquiring land in “Boonslick Country,”⁷⁴ about 120 miles west of St. Louis, was spreading across the nation. “Through the power of men's imagination the Boon's Lick had been transformed into a veritable ‘Promised Land,’ an agricultural El Dorado.”⁷⁵ It was said that “[i]f you plant ten penny nails there at night, they'll sprout crowbars by morning.”⁷⁶ By 1816, a mass migration to the Boonslick Country had begun. Settlers and land spectators were attracted by the natural resources of the area, the inexpensive price for quality land, the closeness to the Missouri River so farm produce could be easily shipped to St. Louis and New Orleans, and of special interest to southerners, the acceptance of slavery. As a result, business was booming for ferries carrying immigrant wagons across the Mississippi River to St. Louis – bound for Boonslick Country.

Initial sales of Boonslick Country public lands began at Franklin in today's Howard County on 13

November 1818. Frantic sales continued at Franklin through 1819. A minimum of 160 acres sold for \$2 per acre, with only a quarter of the purchase price required as a down payment, and the remainder within four years. A new owner would either clear thirty to forty acres for farming and build structures for his family and livestock, or hold the parcel in anticipation of rising values.

Without a doubt, Jesse and his family started discussing the advantages of moving to Boonslick Country. Crighton (1987) states that Boone County, Missouri in 1820 resembled Madison County, Kentucky, because nearly half of the immigrants came from that county. "These early settlers moved their total possessions to Missouri. They brought their furniture, farm equipment, seeds, livestock, and slaves," along with their "fine blood lines of sheep, hogs, jacks and jennets, horses, and cattle."

By 1818, Jesse had decided to move to the new territory – in fact, nearly the entire Copher clan would move: children, spouses of children, grandchildren, and a brother.⁷⁷ On 18 February 1818, Thomas and Hetty Copher sold their one hundred acre Pretty Run farm to Thomas' old militia comrade, Thomas Wornall. Jacob Haller Stidham wrote that his great grandfather, Thomas Copher, moved to northwest Boone County in the late summer of 1818.⁷⁸ Thomas bought his first parcel of patent land on 9 February 1819, straddling the future county line separating Howard and Boone (Section 5, Township 49N, Range 14W).⁷⁹

Did Thomas travel to Boonslick County by himself, or did his brother, Samuel (who was twenty-one years old and recently married), join him? Did Thomas' family travel with him? I suspect that Thomas and Samuel made the initial trip together, but without their families, then returned to Kentucky the following spring to assist their families and the remainder of the Copher clan with the move. Such an approach would have allowed Thomas and Samuel to quickly travel to Missouri with a degree of safety and companionship, and more flexibility to explore the area for quality farm land (and maybe purchase some), and then to assist the large and slow moving caravan of their families, household items, farm equipment, and livestock. In addition, the young ages of Thomas six children (1, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12 years old) would have hindered the initial trip.

While Thomas and Samuel were in Missouri, Jesse

and the families of three married children began to prepare for the trip, while his oldest daughters, Nancy, and her husband, Levi Taul, and Mary,⁸⁰ the next oldest girl, and her husband, William Nesbit, would remain in Kentucky. In September 1818, Jesse divided and sold his Pretty Run farm: seventy acres to his new neighbor, Thomas Wornall, for \$2,800, and seventy acres to Thomas Wright. Jesse and his family probably lived with one of his married children until the trip west began. For nearly all of the next year, Jesse concentrated on selling the last nine parcels (nearly 1,100 acres) of the Salt Lick Creek property in Bath County. This left him with thirty-five acres on Stoners Fork. On 16 September 1819, he gave his power of attorney to Robert P. Kinney to collect money owed him and to sell the Stoners Fork property. Jesse let it be known through this document that "I am about going to the missouri Teritory [*sic*]."⁸¹

Besides selling his properties at this time, Jesse also used the time to organize for the trip – packing essential items to take and selling things that could be replaced in Missouri. But that was not all Jesse had to concern himself with at the time. Two more of his daughters married in 1819: Sarah to Henry Dooley and Jerusha to America B. Kirtley. This increased the size of the caravan by two more men – two more sets of hands to help.

The Copher caravan seems to have assembled in the fall of 1819 (probably early October). It was likely comprised of about twenty people (Jesse, who was sixty-three years old and Elizabeth, who was fifty-four years old, four unmarried children, five married children⁸² with spouses, nine grandchildren, and several slaves), a dozen or so wagons, and a small herd of livestock.

There were two ways for the Cophers to get to Boonslick Country, about 450 miles from Clark County. The first was by wagon the entire distance, following dirt trails from Clark County to Louisville, ferry across the Ohio River, then west through Indiana and Illinois to St. Louis, where they would cross the Mississippi River by ferry, then follow the Boonslick Trail to Howard County where Thomas had purchased land. The second was a combination of a paddle wheeler ride from Louisville to St. Louis, with wagons used at both ends. I doubt they traveled by a paddle wheeler because of the enormous cost for such a large party.⁸³ Stidham's (1987) family remembrance in 1975 supports my assumption that they traveled



Figure 3. Daughters of the American Revolution plaque on the graves of Jesse Copher and Elizabeth Boone.

by wagon when he stated that his great grandparents came to Missouri in wagons pulled by oxen, while the horses were ridden or led behind the wagons.

The Copher caravan was not the only group of wagons on the road. It was stated in the 19 November 1819, issue of the *Franklin Intelligencer* that “immense numbers of wagons, carriage, carts, etc., with families, have ... been daily arriving” in Howard County, Missouri. During October, the reporter noted that 271 wagons and carriages, and fifty-five two-wheeled carriages and carts passed near St. Charles for Boonslick Country - no less than 3,000 people, mostly from Kentucky and Tennessee. Depending on weather and mud conditions, it probably took the Copher caravan one to two months to cover the 450 miles, arriving sometime between mid-November and mid-December 1819. This agrees with many of Draper’s interviewees who stated that Jesse moved to Missouri in 1819.

When the Copher families arrived in the territory, they initially settled about six linear miles north of Rocheport, which is located on the Missouri River. Jesse bought two properties in present day Boone County, near the county line with Howard County, from Taylor Berry, a wealthy land speculator.⁸⁴ He purchased the first parcel of 130 acres (E½, SE¼, S8, T49N, R14W) on 14 November 1820, next to

Thomas’s parcel, and the second parcel of 320 acres on 21 January 1821, (N½, S10, T49N, R14W) for \$1,600. Then in early 1822, he made his last land purchase; eighty acres (W½, SE¼, S7, T49N, R14W) in Howard County.

About the time of his last land purchase, Jesse probably became ill because by mid-summer he had sold most of his property to his children and made his will on 5 July 1822.⁸⁵ He was remembered by some neighbors and grandchildren as being “somewhat eccentric” because he had a coffin made to order before he died and would occasionally lie in it to assure the fit. He also “requested of his family that they should have a grave dug for him 6 or 7 feet deep.” “Old Grandfather Copher died at his house” of “consumption” on 16 September 1822, while “sitting up in his chair.” He was “worthy and patriotic,” and for many years a member of the Old Bethel Baptist Church. He was “buried near his cabin” ... “on the county line between Boone and Howard Counties” with “stones standing around” his grave.⁸⁶ His coffin was likely lined with black bombazine, a twilled fabric with silk warp and worsted filling, sewn together with black thread.⁸⁷ He died at age sixty-six years and two months.

There has been much misinformation circulated over the years as to where Jesse was buried.⁸⁸ On 4

July 1976, the Daughters of the American Revolution placed plaques on what they believed to be his grave and that of Elizabeth in northern Boone County, the “Copher Family Cemetery” (figure 3).⁸⁹ However, an 1830 deed transaction by Elizabeth and her son, David, clearly states that Jesse was buried in west-central Boone County. According to a land sale recorded in Boone County Deed Book C on pages 437 and 438, David and Elizabeth sold 130 acres of land at E½, SE¼, S8, T49N, R14W on 29 November 1830, except for “the burying ground where Jesse Copher was buried.” This was the first land Jesse bought when he arrived in Missouri and the same on which he was living when he made his will. I believe that his remains were moved to the newly established Copher Family Cemetery sometime after 1836⁹⁰ because no other family member was buried next to him in western Boone County. His original burial site was not protected and does not exist today.

Jesse confirmed in his will that he had already left much of his property to his children. Through his will, however, he left additional property or money to four children: 1) Jerusha received an additional two hundred dollars; 2) Samuel received an additional eighty acres in Howard County (W½, SE¼, S7, T49N, R14W); 3) David, his youngest son, received 130 acres “of land whereon I [Jesse] now live” (E½, SE¼, S8, T49N, R14W); and 4) Eleanor⁹¹ received 120 acres (W½, NW¼, S10, T49N, R14W), and, should she “get married & leave her mother then it is my Will that her mother should give her as much stock household furniture &c [etc] as may in her Judgment appear a proportionable part of said property with her sisters.”[sic] Elizabeth received all of his personal property and four slaves (Britt, Fielding, Mike [a boy] and Nancy) for the remainder of her life. David was charged with caring for his mother and Eleanor. Jesse ended the will by referring to Eleanor as “Nelly.”

Jesse appointed his sons, Thomas, Samuel and David, along with their mother, as executors of this will. In addition to settling his estate, he charged them with selling the thirty-five acre plantation he owned in Kentucky. The will was produced for the Clerk of the Boone County on 21 September 1822. Tyre Harris and Tyre Berry gave their securities for the executors – Tyre Harris was the father-in-law of Frances Copher (daughter of Jesse’s son, Thomas)

and Tyre Berry was married to Hettie Copher, Jesse’s daughter. Probate was not finished until 1828. At least twice the Probate Court required the executors to explain the delay. After paying about \$550 in debts, the estate was appraised at \$2,016.40. In addition, the thirty-five acres on Stoners Fork was sold for \$300.

There is no documentation as to when and where Elizabeth Boone Copher died, though the year 1855 has been used by a number of sources (e.g., DAR plaque for Jesse and Elizabeth). Spraker (1922) stated that Elizabeth “died when past 90 years of age,” while David Piper told Draper in 1884 that Elizabeth “survived him [Jesse] several years.”⁹² I have also seen the date 22 July 1857, on the internet, but again, without documentation. My feeling is that she died sometime between 1840 and 1850, and is buried next to her husband in the Copher Family Cemetery.⁹³

In Closing

Jesse’s story reveals how an ordinary young man inadvertently became associated with two famous episodes of Kentucky’s frontier history. He was not a rugged frontiersman nor a hardy “long hunter” of *Kanta-Ke*, but a young militiaman who happened to have had a couple of life-threatening adventures with two such men – Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton. Other than these two occurrences, Jesse’s role in Kentucky and Missouri history was the same as thousands of other pioneers; he helped develop the frontier so he could make a living, support a family, and make life a little easier for his children. Because of his service with the Virginia frontier militia during the Revolutionary War, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution recognize him as a Revolutionary War Patriot.

Children of Jesse and Elizabeth

- i. Nancy Boone Copher was born on 16 October 1782, in Madison Co., Ky., and died before 1868 in Ky.(?). She married Levi Thomas Taul in 1799 in Ky. He was born on 16 February 1779, in Md., and died on 29 August 1835, in Ky.(?)
- ii. Thomas Copher was born on 15 October 1784, in Madison Co., Ky., and died on 4 March 1840, in Boone Co., Mo. He married Hester “Hetty” Patton Gay on 23 June 1805, in Ky. She was born on 19 November 1787, in Bourbon Co., Ky., and died on 11 March 1852, in Boone Co., Mo.

- iii. Mary “Polly” Copher was born in 1787, Fayette Co., Ky., and died between 1860 and 1870 in Clark Co., Ky. She married William Nesbit on 13 April 1807, in Clark Co., Ky. He was born about 1783 in Fayette Co., Ky., and died between 1840–1850⁹⁴ in Clark Co., Ky.
- iv. Phoebe Copher was born in 1790 in Fayette Co., Ky., and died before 1850 in Boone Co., Mo. She married William Hayden (Haden) on 24 February 1809, in Ky. He was born about 1786 in Va.(?) and died after 1850 in Mo.(?)
- v. Jerusha Copher was born about 1793 in Madison Co., Ky., and died between 1850 and 1860 in Mo. She married America B. Kirtley about 1819 in Ky. He was born about 1795 in Ky., and died after 1860 in Mo.(?).
- vi. Sarah Copher was born on 30 July 1795, in Clark Co., Ky., and died on 27 December 1859, in Davis Co., Iowa. She married Henry Dooley on 6 March 1819, in Clark Co., Ky. He was born on 21 August 1795, in Clark Co., Ky., and died on 10 May 1849, in Davis Co., Ia.
- vii. Samuel Boone Copher was born on 18 May 1797, in Clark Co., Ky., and died on 18 April 1879, in Columbia, Boone Co., Mo. He married (1) Anna Thompson before 1817 in Ky. She was born about 1795 in Ky., and died about 1835 in Mo. He then married (2) Anna Maupin (Ferner) on August 29, 1838, in Howard Co., Mo. She was born in 1801 in Albemarle Co., Va., and died in 1882 in Mo.(?).
- viii. Udosha Copher was born in 1799 in Clark Co., Ky., and died before 1827 in Mo. She married Samuel B. Steele on 28 March 1821, in Boone Co., Mo. He was born in 1798 in Montgomery Co., Ky., and died on 10 March 1860, in Callaway Co., Mo.
- ix. Betty “Hettie” Boone Copher was born on 22 December 1803, in Clark Co., Ky., and died 25 February 1842, in Boone Co., Mo. She married Tyree Harris Berry on 28 June 1821, in Boone Co., Mo. He was born on 25 October 1800, in Clark Co., Ky., and died on 13 September 1871, in Boone Co., Mo.
- x. David Newton Copher was born in 1805 in Clark Co., Ky., and died in August 1834 in Mo. He married Cynthia Ann Gray on 14 April 1825, in Howard Co., Mo. She was born about 1804 in Howard Co., Mo., and died after 1838. The following newspaper article in the 4 April 1835, issue of the *Missouri Intelligencer* is likely about David Newton Copher: “In the case of the State against Byrd Lawless, for the murder of David Copher, which came on for trial at the present term of the Howard circuit court, the jury found a verdict of manslaughter, and sentenced the prisoner to six months imprisonment and a fine of six hundred and fifty dollars.”
- xi. Ellender “Nelly” Copher was born on 11 February 1808, in Clark Co., Ky., and died on 28 April 1868, in Boone Co., Mo. She married David McQuitty on 17 April 1823, in Boone Co., Mo. He was born on 4 July 1800, in Bullitt Co., Ky., and died on 1 December 1862, in Boone Co., Mo.

Siblings of Jesse Copher

- i. Josias Cofer was born about 1742 in Va., and died in 1814 in Bedford Co., Va. He married Mary Catherine Lauchart, who was born about 1759 in Bedford Co., Va.
- ii. James Cofer was born before 1744 in Va., and died on 10 March 1816, in Stokes Co., N.C. He married Partheney, who was born about 1745 and died in Stokes Co., N. C.
- iii. Jacob Cofer (Copher) was born about 1750-1755 in Va., and died between 1834 and 1839 in Bath Co., Ky. He married Mildred Harrison before 1778. She died before 16 April 1823, in Ky.
- iv. Joel Cofer was born about 1750 in Va., and died about 1810 in N. C. He married Eleanor Buford, who was born about 1745 in Va.
- v. Anne Cofer was born about 1752 and died after 1791. She married Henry W. (Archibald?) Gibson.
- vi. George Cofer (Coffer) was born on 1 September 1757, in Culpeper Co., Va., and died about 1837 in St. Genevieve Co., Mo. He married Marena, who was born in Va., and died before 1810 in Montgomery Co., Ky.
- vii. Elizabeth Cofer was born in Va., and died after 1791.
- viii. Reuben Cofer (Copher) was born in 1762 in Va., and died on 28 October 1839, in Bath Co., Ky. He married (1) unknown before 1803 in Montgomery Co., Ky., then married (2) Gincey Jane McClanahan on 24 February 1826, in Bath Co., Ky. She was born on 1781 in Va.
- xi. Phoebe Cofer was born in Va., and died after 1791.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ You may contact the author at chetbuchanan@charter.net
- ² Allan W. Eckert, *The Frontiersmen, A Narrative* (New York, 1968).
- ³ John Mack Faragher, *Daniel Boone, The Life and Legend of an American Pioneer* (New York, 1992).
- ⁴ Ted Franklin Belue, "Terror in the Canelands: The Fate of Daniel Boone's Salt Boilers," *Filson Club History Quarterly*, 68 (1994): 3-34.
- ⁵ William Dodd Brown, "The Capture of Daniel Boone's Saltmakers: Fresh Perspectives from Primary Sources," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 83 (1985): 1.
- ⁶ Jesse Copher's birth date is based on an entry in the Thomas Copher Ledger (Jesse's son) held in the Stidham Collection at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
- ⁷ Information about Jesse appeared in a 15 March 1884, letter to Lyman Draper (Draper Manuscript Collection (DMC), Series 2BB, page 119⁴) from William Rowell. The source of Rowell's information was John H. Harris (likely Robert H. Harris), who married Frances Copher, Jesse's granddaughter. Since Frances was only three years old when Jesse died, the information was likely passed to her by her parents, Thomas and Hetty Copher.
- ⁸ Capt. Samuel Boone told Draper (DMC, Series 22S: 242) that his father, George Boone, was part of the relief party. Some of the rescuers remained for six months or more, but I believe that George returned home before winter.
- ⁹ *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, 91: 1343.
- ¹⁰ Brown (1985).
- ¹¹ Revolutionary War Petition Application for Ansel Goodman, www.rootsweb.com, accessed 25 February 2003.
- ¹² Ted Franklin Belue, *The Hunters of Kentucky – A Narrative History of America's First Far West, 1750-1792* (Mechanicsburg, 2003).
- ¹³ There were twenty-eight men in camp at this time. The other five men escaped capture because they were either packing salt to the fort or hunting.
- ¹⁴ This number was derived by Belue (1994).
- ¹⁵ George W. Ranck, *Boonesborough. Its Founding, Pioneer Struggles, Indian Experiences, Transylvania Days, and Revolutionary Annals* (Louisville, 1901): 66.
- ¹⁶ The village was near present day Xenia, Ohio.
- ¹⁷ Faragher, 161.
- ¹⁸ Belue, 126.
- ¹⁹ Kenton was captured on 13 September 1778, while stealing horses from the Shawnee. After being hideously tortured and suffering numerous injuries, including a broken arm, the Indians delivered him to the British at Detroit during the winter of 1778-79.
- ²⁰ Belue, xii.
- ²¹ R. W. McFarland, *Simon Kenton, Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*, 13 (1904): 1-39.
- ²² John A. McClung, *Sketches of Western Adventure* (Dayton, 1854); McClung likely had access to notes taken by John Bickley and Thomas Pickett during their interview of Kenton in 1820.
- ²³ Col. John H. McDonald, *Biographical Sketches of General Nathaniel Massie, General Duncan McArthur, Captain William Wells, and General Simon Kenton* (Cincinnati, 1838). According to McFarland, McDonald was "a companion of Kenton in several expeditions against the Indians."
- ²⁴ John H. James interviewed Simon Kenton on 13 February 1832 (DMC, Series 5BB: 102-103).
- ²⁵ McDonald (1833) gave the date as 3 June.
- ²⁶ Belue wrote on page 16 of his article that after Jesse recuperated from his escape, he traveled to Virginia to visit his family, then returned to Kentucky in the fall of 1780. While I could not find any documentation to support this claim, the following facts indicate that Jesse remained in Kentucky: 1) militia receipt for providing rations in late 1779; 2) numerous land transactions from October 1779 through March 1780; and 3) militia service in the summer of 1780.
- ²⁷ George Rogers Clark Papers, microfilm, reel 5, photo 408, (box 627, folder 83A) Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
- ²⁸ Dodd Brown, "A Visit to Boonesborough in 1779," *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 86 (1988): 315-329.
- ²⁹ James Alton James, *George Rogers Clark Papers 1771-1781*, Virginia Series, Vol. III (Springfield, Ill., 1912).
- ³⁰ Margery Heberling Harding, compiler, *George Rogers Clark and His Men Military Records, 1778-1784* (Frankfort, 1981).
- ³¹ James (1912) stated that Col. Logan's regiment was enlisted at Boonesborough and adjacent towns.
- ³² James Rood Robertson, *Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky* (Louisville, 1914).
- ³³ Copies of the original documents were obtained from The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.

- ³⁴ *Muster and Payrolls of Kentucky Militia, 1779-1784*. Illinois Papers, Documents 42 and 128, microfilms of the original documents, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Va.
- ³⁵ Elizabeth's birth date is based on an entry in the Thomas Copher Ledger (Jesse's son) held in the Stidham Collection at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
- ³⁶ I am uncertain about Elizabeth's birth location because George moved his family from the forks to the Upper Yadkin River about 1766.
- ³⁷ Also known as Skagg's Trace, but it was not known as the Wilderness Road until 1795.
- ³⁸ The following information is relevant to these hypotheses: George entered land claims in Kentucky on 15 May and 28 June 1780, and he served in the Boonesborough militia from 6 September to 21 October 1780 (pay roll of Capt. David Gass). George's nephew, Daniel Boone Bryan, told Draper in a 1843 letter that George moved to Kentucky in the fall of 1779, while George's son, Samuel Boone, told Draper (DMC, Series, 22S: 242-243) that "George Boone, informant's father, moved to Kentucky in the fall of 1780" and "[i]n 1779, George Boone visited Kentucky to see the country and next year, as stated, moved to Kentucky." This implies that George did not stay the winter in Kentucky.
- ³⁹ Both hypotheses have merits and faults. The overwintering hypothesis is logical because it eliminates two dangerous trips to and from Boonesborough, and gives George more time to explore the county for suitable land to claim. Also in support of this hypothesis, is the fact that Nancy did not conceive a child during the winter of 1779/80 (April 1778 – May 1781). Counter to this hypothesis, however, is the baffling question: Why would Daniel request and receive a 1,000-acre land warrant for his brother from the Boonesborough Land Court in December 1779 if George was in the area? The main problem with the second hypothesis is the extra winter and spring trips from and to Boonesborough.
- ⁴⁰ "This hard winter began about the first of November 1779 and broak up the last of February 1780. The turkeys was almost all dead. The buffeloes had got poore. People's cattle mostly Dead. No corn or but very little in the country. The people was in great Distress. Man in the wilderness frosbit. Some Dead." [sic] Chester Raymond Young, ed. *Westward into Kentucky: The Narrative of Daniel Trabue* (Lexington, 1981), 75.
- ⁴¹ Daniel Boone had been in North Carolina since Jesse and Bullock returned to Kentucky.
- ⁴² George and Nancy probably did not stay long at Bryans Station because most of the Bryan relatives had already returned to North Carolina.
- ⁴³ According to a letter written by Samuel's grandson to Draper in 1883. Hazel Attebury Spraker, *The Boone Family* (Ruthland, Vt., 1922), 134.
- ⁴⁴ Historical documents give conflicting years as to when George built his station (1780, 1781, and 1783), and when Hoy built his station (1780 and 1781).
- ⁴⁵ Thomas D. Clark, *Clark County Kentucky: A History* (Winchester, 1955).
- ⁴⁶ It is difficult to determine from Draper's notes if this was a self-assessment by Jesse that he told others, or one made by his brother-in-law, Samuel Boone. DMC, Series 22S: 254.
- ⁴⁷ A warrant authorized a person to reserve ("entry") land for surveying. Warrants came in the form of Settlement Certificates (400 acres), Preemption Claims (or Preemptions Warrants; 1,000 acres), and Treasury Warrants (no set amount of acreage). For a good description of the land patenting process for early Kentucky, read Neal O. Hammon, *Early Kentucky Land Records, 1773-1780* (Louisville, 1992).
- ⁴⁸ The Stoners Fork properties were adjacent to one another in the northeast portion of present day Clark County (formed in 1793) - immediately south of Wades Mill on both sides of Stoners Fork (known as Stoner Creek today).
- ⁴⁹ Bramblett's Lick is a good reference point for determining the property's location. The lick was about a mile south of Wades Mill – see figure IV-38 in Nancy O'Malley, *Stockading Up* (Lexington, 1987).
- ⁵⁰ County tax records did not start until 1787, and Jesse was listed in Fayette County at the time.
- ⁵¹ For example, a cabin near Estill's Station (near present day Richmond) was attacked in March 1782 and then on 10 August 1782, two boys were kidnapped near Hoys Station. The kidnappings lead to the defeat of Holder at the Battle of Upper Blue Lick. This battle was a diversion for the Indians to attack Bryans Station.
- ⁵² William Chenault, 1882, *Madison County*, The Courier-Journal, Louisville, 27 August 1882: 12.
- ⁵³ O'Malley.
- ⁵⁴ Based on 1787 and 1788 Fayette and Madison county tax records.
- ⁵⁵ Petition No. 63 to the General Assembly of Virginia, District of Kentucky, endorsed 2 November 1789.
- ⁵⁶ Jesse was the assignee for Josiah Phelps who in turn

was the assignee for Francis Harris (original owner of Treasury Warrant 7934).

⁵⁷ Henry Bell was the heir to David Bell, who originally received the French and Indian War Military Warrant 1288.

⁵⁸ This land sale resulted in a lawsuit over land boundaries that lasted from 1801 to 1808. Though the dispute was resolved in 1802, the lawsuit was not settled until 1808.

⁵⁹ Rhoda Ham was Jesse's niece by his brother, James. This sale started a chain reaction when Stephen Ham, shortly after buying the land, sold it to Wheatley who later sold it to Scrugham. In the meantime, Jesse somehow got the property back, forcing Scrugham to re-purchase the land from him!

⁶⁰ This portion of Jesse's claim is now part of the Raven Run Nature Sanctuary, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Division of Parks and Recreation.

⁶¹ This was based on the lack of 1789 and 1790 county tax records, and the 1791 Madison Co. tax record which indicates that Jesse was living in the county at the time. Legal documents associated with the Copher vs. Barnes lawsuit indicate that Jesse was living in Madison County in March 1792 (Fayette Circuit Court records deposited at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives).

⁶² According to the 14 November 1792, Madison Co. tax records, George Boone owned a sizable plantation of 400 acres of prime land, fourteen slaves (four adults), fourteen horses, and eighty-one head of cattle, while Jesse had three slaves (one adult), five horses, and eleven head of cattle.

⁶³ Jesse appears in the Clark Co., tax records from 1794 through 1819. He was mentioned as living on "Stoner's fork near Bramble's Lick," *Kentucky Gazette*, 29 October 1796.

⁶⁴ 1799 Clark County tax record indicates that Jesse owned 900 acres on Stoners Fork, while the 1801 tax record indicates that he only owned 250 acres on Stoners Fork (land granted to him in 1800 under Treasury Warrant 7934).

⁶⁵ Jesse bought 268.5 acres on Pretty Run for \$1,742 from Jesse Bledsoe on 27 June 1806 – part of Nathaniel Gist's military patent land on Strode Creek – about a mile west of his Stoners Fork parcel.

⁶⁶ This seems to be different than what Jesse experienced with his parents. Of the ten children born to Thomas Cofer in Culpeper County, VA, four moved to Kentucky, two to North Carolina, and one to Bedford, VA. The destination of the other three is unknown. This may be more reflective of the availability of good land at a moderate price in

Kentucky and North Carolina than anything else.

⁶⁷ Fayette Co., KY Circuit Ct. Suits, Scrugham vs. Copher heirs & Scrugham heirs; and Scrugham vs. Scrugham heirs 1829-1838.

⁶⁸ Parrish vs. Copher, March 1809, Clark Co. Circuit Court, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, Public Records Division. Jesse, living on Pretty Run, was found guilty of non payment and had to pay Parrish \$23.835 and court costs of \$7.97 ("in lawful money of Kentucky").

⁶⁹ M-235, Clark Co. Deed Vol. 11: 265.

⁷⁰ Spraker: 130.

⁷¹ Anderson Chenault Quisenberry, *Kentucky In The War of 1812* (Frankfort, 1915).

⁷² *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky: Soldiers of the War of 1812* (Frankfort, 1891), 148.

⁷³ Thomas Copher's Ledger held in the Stidham Collection at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Uni. of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Thomas' brother, Samuel, cousins, George and Jesse, and brother-in-law, William Nesbit, were part of his company.

⁷⁴ The name "Boonslick Country" was first applied to the area in Howard County, Mo., where the Boones made salt, but by 1818, it referred to the area along the Missouri River that encompasses present day Howard and Boones Counties.

⁷⁵ John C. Crighton, *A History of Columbia and Boone County* (Columbia, Mo., 1987). Crighton defines the county's natural resources as "...numerous salt springs, excellent loess soil, gently sloping land, abundant forest, and plentiful water supplies."

⁷⁶ "Head's Fort," a transcription of an article from the *Missourian Farm & Home*, Wednesday, 24 Nov. 1954, by Mary Helen Catlett Allen, printed in the *GSCM Reporter*, 26 (1954).

⁷⁷ George Cofer may have moved to Missouri with Jesse, because in 1819 he settled in St. Genevieve County.

⁷⁸ Stidham, Jacob Haller, 1987, "The Stidhams – Written For A Recording, February 1973," *Reporter Quarterly*, VII (1987).

⁷⁹ Cecy Rice, (no date), *Original Land Purchases of Howard County, Missouri*, document held by the Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City, Mo. Rice stated that Thomas and three other men were the first to buy patent land from the Franklin Land Office. She did not explain the discrepancy between the official land office opening date of 13 November 1818, and the 9 February 1819, date she used.

⁸⁰ Mary and William Nesbit adopted Albert Steele (son of Udosha) between 1827 and 1830. Udosha, married to Samuel Steele, had twin girls in 1822 and

Albert in 1824. Then sometime before 1827 she died. Mary and William likely traveled to Boone County by paddle wheeler – from Louisville, Ky., to Rocheport, Mo., an important steamboat and ferry landing in Boonslick Country and only about six miles south of Jesse's farm. After picking Albert up, they returned to Kentucky. After William died between 1840-50, Albert continued to live with Mary until she died sometime after 1860. I have no idea why Albert did not remain with his father (re-married twice) and younger sisters. Albert married in later life and has several children.

⁸¹ *Clark Co., Ky. Deed Book* 16: 45-46.

⁸² Boone and Howard county land records, census records, and marriage records support my hypothesis that nine of Jesse's children moved west with him and Elizabeth.

⁸³ In 1814, it cost \$23 per ton to ship merchandise from New Orleans to St. Louis by paddle wheeler.

⁸⁴ Part of New Madrid certificate numbers 96 and 235 near Woodlandville, Boone Co., Mo.

⁸⁵ Deed Book A, pages 119-122, Boone County Government Center, Columbia, Mo..

⁸⁶ I paraphrased and quoted information in this paragraph from Jesse's grandchildren and neighbors as recorded in DMC, Series 2BB, pages 119⁴, 119⁵, 121, and 123. The date of Jesse Copher's death was found in Thomas Copher's Ledger (Jesse's son) held in the Stidham Collection at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

⁸⁷ According to Jesse's merchant account with Oliver Parker, nine yards of black bombazine were purchased on 11 September 1822, for \$4.37, along with one skein of black silk thread. This account is part of Jesse's probate records (case no. 22) held by the Probate Division, Boone County Government Center, Columbia, Mo.

⁸⁸ Chester C. Buchanan, "Where is Jesse Copher Buried in Boone County, Mo.?" *GSCM Reporter*, 25 (2006): 17-21.

⁸⁹ The cemetery is located about five miles northeast of Harrisburg on county road NN - about a quarter of a mile west of the county road on private property (parcel: N½, SW¼, S5, T50N, R13W). Today the primitive cemetery site, surrounded by secondary growth timber with the remnants of an old logging road passing nearby, contains three rows of tombstones (about twenty-four graves). Most of the graves are marked only with native stone slabs.

⁹⁰ Jesse's grandson, Samuel Copher, received a patent in 1836 for land that encompasses the Copher Family

Cemetery. He owned the parcel until his death on 18 February 1876. It is also believed by some that Samuel's father, Thomas Copher, was buried here in 1840.

⁹¹ She was fourteen years old at this time. Though her given name is spelled "Eleanor" in the will, it is spelled "Ellender" on her gravestone. The given name Ellender first appeared in the family in 1722 for the daughter of Martha Strode and Morgan Bryan (also used were Elenor, Elinor, Elanor, Ellener, Elender, and Ellender). Daniel Bryan wrote the name as Ellener; his older brother Samuel wrote it as Elinor; and George Bryan expressed the name as Ellender to Rev. J.D. Shane (nineteenth century historian). Two generations later, George Boone and Nancy Linville named one of their daughters "Ellender." My great grandmother and aunt, descendants of Ellender Copher McQuitty, were also named Elender, but dropped an "l". It is obvious from the language and sentence structure used in the will that it was written by a lawyer, therefore, the lawyer might have transposed Ellender into Eleanor.

⁹² DMC, Series 2BB, 121.

⁹³ The last official record that I could find that is likely for Elizabeth is the 1840 U.S. Census for Boone County, Missouri. A woman in the seventy to eighty year age grouping is listed with Samuel B. Copher (Elizabeth's last living son at the time) and his family in Perch Township. Though I could not find Samuel in the 1850 U.S. Census for Missouri, Elizabeth was not listed with his family in Boone County nor with any of her daughters or grandchildren living in Missouri at the time. Therefore, there is a good chance that she died between 1840 and 1850.

⁹⁴ It is logical to assume that William died sometime between 1840 and 1850 in Clark Co., Ky., because he, along with his wife (Mary) and adopted son (Albert), appear in the 1830 and 1840 U.S. Census for Clark Co., Ky., (1830 census - Wm Nesbitt forty to fifty, female thirty to forty, and boy under five; and 1840 census - Wm Nesbitt 50-60, female 50-60, and boy ten to fifteen). Just Mary and Albert appear in the 1850 and 1860 Clark County censuses. What is confusing is that Evans and Thompson in their book, *Wills and Administrations of Boone Co., Mo.* lists Wm. Nesbit as dying on 7 August 1837, in Boone Co., KY. One of his heirs is Mary Nesbit! Could this be a cousin?

Irish and Scots-Irish Pioneers to Kentucky

By Jim Kastner

The Irish settlers who came to early frontier Kentucky fell into two general categories. The first were native born Irish who could trace their ancestry for centuries in Ireland. Their religion tended to be Roman Catholic. The second category were more recent inhabitants of Ireland, having been encouraged to settle in the Ulster Plantation by King James I in the 1600s. This group of relative newcomers to Northern Ireland tended to be from Scotland and were Protestant in religion.

There were a variety of reasons for the Irish migration to North America:

1. They were seeking a new start in a new land;
2. They were escaping English oppression in their homeland;
3. They were fleeing religious intolerance;
4. Some were running from crimes, real or imaginary;
5. Some felt the need to leave more established colonies, whether in North America or elsewhere in the British Empire because of family circumstances, the economy, wars, or other reasons;
6. Sometimes it was simply the desire for economic betterment and religious toleration.¹

The Irish, like other European nationalities, came as laborers – everything from domestic servants to

hardy field hands. But by the eighteenth century, the institution of slavery had replaced the need for raw field labor and many of the Irish and others. Even those who were substituting life in the colonies for prison time in Merry Old England provided a higher quality labor than the Irish and other nationalities who had come to North America in the seventeenth century.²

Between 1760 (the period of the Seven Years War) and the start of the American Revolution (1775), 55,000 Protestant Irish, many of them Scots-Irish, emigrated to the British America colonies,³ to be added to the previous numbers from earlier decades.

Historian Bernard Bailyn states in his *Voyagers to the West* that from July 1769 to March 1771, 5,870 tons of emigrant shipping departed from major Irish ports. In the two years that followed, the report said the number nearly tripled to 17,400; in the next fifteen months (through June 1774), 20,450 emigrants left. This created much concern in Ireland and among the British officials about who would be left in Ireland to maintain the country. There was the added concern about the amount of wealth leaving the country for North America and the taxable property and labor headed west across the Atlantic.⁴

The Protestant Irish tended to move through the American ports and migrate toward the frontier regions of their respective colonies. This included the southwestern frontier of Pennsylvania, especially after 1768. Large groups of Irishmen were to be found

in the frontier areas of colonies such as Georgia, South Carolina, northern New York, and, of course, Kentucky.⁵

Many of the Protestant Irish were what became known as Scotch-Irish or Scots-Irish, and many were from the northern counties around Ulster. Ron Chepesiuk, in *The Scotch-Irish: From the North of Ireland to the Making of America*, notes that the Scotch-Irish were lowland Scots who migrated to the north of Ireland in the seventeenth century to participate in the Ulster Colony established during the reign of King James I. In the eighteenth century, thousands of them migrated to America. So many left Ireland that the Scots-Irish were the second largest ethnic group to come to the New World in the eighteenth century.⁶

Belfast was the principal port of embarkation but not the only port. Londonderry saw twenty-five ships in the summer of 1729, "each one carrying from 140 passengers to America" and others left from the ports near Colrain.⁷ The ships employed for the great migration were not much better than the vessels employed in the slave trade farther south. Indeed, in his book *Ulster Immigration to Colonial America*, R. J. Dickson stated that a ship could legally carry one passenger for every twenty and a half square inches of deck space, which made these ships even more crowded than the slavers.⁸ Parliament eventually addressed the matter by passing legislation to regulate the number of passengers that could be carried on an immigration vessel, but that would not be until well into the nineteenth century.

In mid-1729, a report sent to the Privy Council discussed some of the reasons for the immigration to the New World by citizens of Ireland. Bad harvests had provided multiple reasons. Lack of production had caused a steep rise in the price of grain and a steep drop in the price of linens. Landlords had continued to raise the rent and clergy had continued to push to collect tithes from farmers, even bringing lawsuits in some cases. There were also reports of ships' captains allowing free transport to the heads of households or hiding debtors on board to allow their escape from creditors. The report also questioned if overly positive correspondence describing the abundance and rich opportunities available across the sea from friends and relatives already in the colonies might be driving some immigrants. Finally, it was charged that shipping companies and ships' captains

had become large landholders in North America and these painted rosy pictures of life in the colonies in order to sell land opportunities to the immigrants.⁹

But the English government did next to nothing to stem the tide of Irish and Scots-Irish settlers headed for North America until the French and Indian War ended in North America in 1763. As long as France and her Indian allies fought England and her settlers in the New World, the Scotch-Irish were beneficial to the battle and were needed.

Aboard the ships, accommodations were cramped, damp, dark, and smelly. The shipping company was responsible for berths, drinking water, and fuel for transit. The passenger was responsible for food, bed, and bedding. If several were in the party, a cabin, albeit small, might be procured. If traveling alone, there was the possibility of accommodations in a cabin with many other singles, space in the hold, or deck accommodations if things were crowded enough.

Considering the size of the ships, seasickness was a constant companion for immigrants of the day. One example cited that 100 of 119 passengers on the ship *William* were seasick by the second day out of Belfast. For the more hardy souls who handled the normal rolling and constant motion of these small vessels, there was always the storm or squall that could easily blow up out of the North Atlantic. If the storms provided too much drama, they could just as easily be followed by a calm, when the sailing ship could not move for lack of wind. Depending on the length of the calm or if the storm blew the ship off course, there might be a scarcity of food or water - or the food might spoil, or the water become stale, or worse, tainted. And for those who really craved adventure, there was always the possibility of pirates who might suddenly appear to board the usually defenseless passenger ships and relieve the hapless passengers of any valuables before allowing them to venture on to the New World.¹⁰

In such a close and closed atmosphere, with its stale air in the enclosed areas of the ship and its stale food and water, disease was always a possibility. Smallpox, yellow fever, and cholera were just some of the more prevalent disease possibilities. And if the crossing did not produce such pestilence, it was always possible to encounter them upon arrival in an American port that had already received a diseased vessel.¹¹

Early Irish and Scots-Irish immigrants arrived in New England. Later they would arrive in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, as well as many smaller ports. Five ships carrying about 120 families arrived at Boston during the summer of 1718. Over the next few years, another 20,000 came to New England. The Puritans were not fond of the Scotch-Irish, although they appreciated their assistance with the Indians. The historian Maury Klein called the relationship between Puritan and Irish/Scotch-Irish “confrontation between marble and granite.”

Both groups sprang from Calvinist religious stock and were similar in their religious rigidity and unwillingness to have anything to do with other faiths. The Puritans were also fearful that, as the immigrants from Ireland kept coming, they would soon overrun the Bay Colony. Finally, the Scotch-Irish were unwelcome in Massachusetts because there was not enough good farm land to go around.¹²

Mellie Scott Hortin, in the article, “A History of the Scotch-Irish and their Influence in Kentucky,” says the first distinctly Scotch-Irish settlements known to have taken place in America were said to have been on the eastern shores of Maryland in 1632. She also notes that there were 500 people of English or Irish descent on the eastern shore. As Maryland was originally established as a refuge for Roman Catholics, it is possible at least part of the Irish segment of this 500-person immigration was not from the Ulster Colony but from Roman Catholic Ireland. It is also possible they allowed the Presbyterian Scots-Irish into the colony by this time. Horton notes there was little immigration to America from Ireland, other than from the Ulster area, until after the War of 1812. She assumes these were Scotch-Irish rather than original natives of Ireland. But, considering the numbers of Irish Catholics migrating from Maryland to Kentucky in the 1780s, it would appear there were Irish Catholics in numbers in Maryland before the War of 1812.

Along with the wave of Scots-Irish immigration into Massachusetts in the eighteenth century, even larger numbers poured into Pennsylvania, helping it to become a stronghold of Scotch-Irish. From December 1728 to December 1729, there were 5,605 Scotch-Irish arrivals out of 6,208 total immigrants to Pennsylvania. Soon, the Scotch-Irish arrivals to Pennsylvania exceeded 10,000 a year. About half a million persons, more than half the Presbyterians of

Ulster, had emigrated to America between 1730 and 1770. By the time of the American Revolution, they made up about one-sixth of the colonial American population.¹³

Just as in New England, the Scotch-Irish failed to endear themselves to the existing Pennsylvania populace, whose laws and social structure were based on a Quaker lifestyle. The Scotch-Irish proved to be a rougher and more coarse group of settlers who did not necessarily fit into the society of Philadelphia, but did quite well in the more rural areas and especially on the frontier as deterrents to Indian attacks.

The Pennsylvania colonists had always had a good record in Indian affairs, acquiring land from native tribes through treaty and paying for what lands were actually used. The Scotch-Irish wasted little time in simply taking what they wanted, once they had arrived in the frontier area of Pennsylvania. Their attitudes and actions would have serious consequences as the colonial timeline, and Pennsylvania’s in particular, moved into the 1750s.¹⁴

Eventually, as more Scotch-Irish settlers arrived in Pennsylvania and moved toward the frontier regions, even Scotch-Irish settlers who had been settled for some time in the Pennsylvania colony became restless to move. Carlton Jackson notes they had become disillusioned with the Quaker government, its laws, and its handling of the Indian affairs with a “soft touch.” There had also been disputes over land.¹⁵

All of this brings us, finally, to adventures into Kentucky. As pressure in Pennsylvania continued to build on the Scotch-Irish, they began to move south along the eastern side of the Appalachian chain and through the great valley of Virginia, into western North Carolina, and as far south as South Carolina (Yadkin and Catawba rivers).¹⁶ As they settled into lands in these areas, the stories of even better lands over the mountains were beginning to be told.

The primary early routes into Kentucky were through the Cumberland Gap in extreme southeastern Kentucky and down the Ohio River and up one of the many tributaries that flow from the Ohio, southward into Kentucky. So many settlers were coming over the mountains at the end of the French and Indian War in 1763 that the British government issued what came to be known as the “Proclamation Line of 1763.” This imaginary line prohibited settlement beyond the crest of the mountains in an effort to maintain peaceful

relations with the Native American tribes west of the mountains. The tribes were becoming restive because of the intrusion of white settlers into their hunting and territorial lands. The Proclamation Line proved to be nearly useless as it was circumvented by explorers, surveyors, long hunters, and early settlers.

It is difficult to know who the first European to see Kentucky might have been. Lowell Harrison and James Klotter, in *A New History of Kentucky*, suggest it could very well have been a French explorer or missionary. It could also have been an English citizen of Virginia, for in 1671, Colonel Abram Woods sent an expedition west of the Blue Ridge Mountains to explore the rivers of the region. Two years later, in 1673, Woods sent a second expedition to open relations and trade with western Indian tribes.¹⁷

To read newspaper accounts, published as a series of articles in the *Gaelic American* in 1916, it almost appears that Irishmen discovered Kentucky, explored it, and then handed it over to Daniel Boone for rediscovery. Relying on the historical writings of Lewis Collins and John Filson, one of the articles points out the first European both historians cite is James McBride. The article further notes that, although little is known of McBride, the name certainly sounds Irish and that "In all likelihood, he was a native of Ireland."¹⁸

(According to the *Dictionary of American Family Names*, McBride is, indeed, Irish, probably from County Donegal, but it can also be Scottish.)¹⁹

The article, "The True Discoverer of Kentucky," quotes Filson: "It is believed that Monsieur James McBride is the first white man who had any knowledge of Kentucky. In 1754, accompanied by some friends, he descended the Ohio in canoes, landed at the mouth of the Kentucky River, and there marked on three trees, the first letters of his name with the date and the year, these inscriptions being still visible."²⁰

Filson goes on to say that McBride's little band explored the surrounding area and then returned to their homes.²¹ Long hunters were beginning to enter Kentucky through the Cumberland Gap as early as 1763. A serious influx of such hunters/explorers began in 1769.²² Daniel Boone, of Scotch-Irish heritage, entered into Kentucky for the first time in 1769 with an old acquaintance, John Findley, who had been exploring in Kentucky in 1767, and with Boone's brother-in-law, John Stuart. They stayed for

some time traversing the terrain and observing the varied topography as well as hunting.²³

That Scots-Irish pioneers moved to the Virginia frontier of Kentucky County is fact. They moved into the territory that would become Kentucky just as they moved into the frontier areas of other colonies in the years before the American Revolution, through the war years, and in the years after the Revolution. They had moved from the coastal towns and counties into the interior just as they had moved from the Ulster Colony to the North American colonies, just as they had moved from Scotland to the Ulster Colony before that.

The Scottish transplants to Northern Ireland had begun to feel the need to move out when landlords in their new homes began to raise the rent as old leases ended. This impeded their ability to earn a living. They also had been deprived of the opportunity for political advancement and influence. Pressured in this way, thousands of Ulster Scots began to think of a new migration to North America.²⁴

Lawrence Henry Gipson also speaks of the emigration of native Irish early in the eighteenth century. Thousands of mostly young men left Ireland for France to enlist in military service and this continued until about 1750. Most native Irish families remained in Ireland, bound to the land. Those native Irish who did venture to North America often went to Newfoundland and thence to other places in the New World. These numbers were small and were outnumbered by those Irish being convicted of crimes who had their capital penalties commuted to transportation to the colonies.²⁵

Thus, we have the overwhelming number of people vacating Ireland for North America to be Scots-Irish and a smaller but still substantial number to be native Irish. Some long hunters and the earliest settlers can trace their ancestry to Ireland. But we can also begin to find native Irish as more settlers began to flow into Kentucky as the Revolution raged and even more so as the ravages of war diminished.

In 1785, sixty Catholic families from Maryland, mostly St. Mary's County, pledged to emigrate to Kentucky within a specified time. They wanted to settle in close proximity to one another for protection against Indians, to be available to support and help each other, and to have a greater chance to attract a permanent ministerial appointment, i.e., a priest to minister to their spiritual needs.

Members of the “Maryland League” families began moving to Kentucky in 1785. Other groups ventured westward in 1786, 1787, and 1788. The names included such Irish stalwarts as Bowling, Hagan, Mattingly, Nally, and Spalding.²⁶

Irishmen and women who accompanied these families or were drawn to their communities in central Kentucky included George Hart, who originally came to Kentucky in 1775 with James Harrod. Hart was one of Kentucky’s first physicians and, in 1779, moved to Louisville and later to Bardstown, where he died in 1790.²⁷

Several prominent teachers of Irish background in the early days of Kentucky settlement included Kean O’Hara, who was said to be a most distinguished educator, having taught in the state for fifty years. O’Hara came to America with his father and two brothers in 1798 after the failed Irish Rebellion. His first Kentucky school was at Danville and he later taught at Middletown, Shelbyville, and in Franklin County before 1802. He became the superintendent of the Kentucky Academy (or Seminary) at Frankfort in 1812. James O’Hara, Junior, a brother to Kean, also became a teacher in Kentucky, although in later years, he became a lawyer. Other teachers of Irish background included William Gau, who taught for many years as a lay professor at the Dominican College of St. Thomas of Aquin, and John Mullanphy, who taught languages in the state.²⁸

There was at least one Irish printer in Kentucky in the person of Joseph Charless, who arrived in Lexington in 1803 after first reaching the United States in 1798. While in Lexington, he became a naturalized citizen and published the first Directory of Lexington.²⁹

Other Irishmen who became important to their communities as shopkeepers and businessmen included John Moylan of Lexington, Patrick McCullough, also of Lexington, and John Mullanphy of Frankfort, who eventually found business more profitable than teaching.³⁰ There were other Irishmen and Scots-Irishmen who were successful farmers, lumbermen, teamsters, brewers, distillers, craftsmen, and millers. They permeated every part of the Kentucky Commonwealth.

In the end, as the settlers flowed into Kentucky in the years of the American Revolution and especially the years immediately following, many of the Scots-Irish settled throughout the western counties of

Virginia and what became the state of Kentucky. They spread themselves in the rural areas but also were drawn to the cities and towns. The native Irish tended to settle more in the three central Kentucky counties of Nelson, Marion, and Washington, and in the Ohio River towns. It was in these counties and towns that Catholic churches tended to be established and Catholic priests could most readily be found. The practice of their religion, which was predominantly Roman Catholic, proved to be almost as strong a draw for the native Irish as the tug of the frontier and the promise of a new life. The exploration of the native Irish pioneers is grist for a later article.

Jim Kastner is the library administrator, Martin F. Schmidt Research Library, at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, Frankfort, Kentucky.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Bernard Bailyn, *The Peopling of North America, An Introduction* (New York, 1986), 36-37.
- ² Ibid, 61, 85.
- ³ Ibid, 9.
- ⁴ Bernard Bailyn, *Voyagers to the West* (New York, 1986), 36-37.
- ⁵ Ibid, 27.
- ⁶ Ronald Chepesiuk, *The Scotch-Irish: From the North of Ireland to the Making of America* (Jefferson, NC, 2000), 64.
- ⁷ Thomas D’Arcy McGee, *A History of the Irish Settlers in North America* (Baltimore, 1974), 27.
- ⁸ R. J. Dickson, *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718 – 1775* (Belfast, 2001), 51-2.
- ⁹ Carlton Jackson, *A Social History of the Scotch-Irish* (New York, 1992), 46-7.
- ¹⁰ Ibid, preceding paragraphs are drawn from p. 48.
- ¹¹ Ibid, 56.
- ¹² Ibid, preceding two paragraphs are drawn from p. 58.
- ¹³ Mellie S. Horton, “A History of the Scotch-Irish and Their Influence in Kentucky,” *Filson Club History Quarterly* 34 (1960): 248-49.
- ¹⁴ Jackson, 63.
- ¹⁵ Ibid, 76.
- ¹⁶ Ibid, 90.

- ¹⁷ Lowell H. Harrison and James C. Klotter. *A New History of Kentucky* (Lexington, 1997), 18.
- ¹⁸ Michael J. O'Brien, *Irish Pioneers in Kentucky* (New York, 1916), 1.
- ¹⁹ Patrick Hanks, ed., *Dictionary of American Family Names*, vol. 2, G – N (Oxford, 2003), 2:544.
- ²⁰ O'Brien, 2.
- ²¹ Ibid, 11.
- ²² Harrison and Klotter, 11.
- ²³ Humphrey Marshall, *The History of Kentucky* (Frankfort, 1824), 7-8.
- ²⁴ Lawrence Henry Gipson, *The British Empire before the American Revolution*. Vol. I, *The British Isles and the American Colonies: Great Britain and Ireland, 1748-1754* (New York, 1958), 226.
- ²⁵ Ibid, 187.
- ²⁶ Mary Louise Donnelly, *Colonial Settlers St. Clements Bay, 1634-1780, St. Mary's County, Maryland*. (Eanis, Tx., 1996), 267.
- ²⁷ Sister Mary Ramona Mattingly, *The Catholic Church on the Kentucky Frontier, 1785-1812* (Washington, D.C., 1936), 56.
- ²⁸ Ibid, 145-47.
- ²⁹ Ibid, 151.
- ³⁰ Ibid, 151-52.

Pearcy Family Papers: The Survival of Family Documents

By Deborah Nixon Percy

James Percy, a Revolutionary War soldier, brought his family across the mountains from Virginia to the wilderness of Kentucky. His son, William, also moved his wife and a young son, Mark. The families settled on the banks of Otter Creek at a place called Slickford. On 18 January 1830, James Percy had 220 acres surveyed for a land grant. The survey and the land grant were kept in a safe place.

Land was surveyed and obtained; the important papers were kept; thus, a safekeeping of the family papers began. Years followed and the generations added to the important papers as the land transferred by deeds to Mark and then his son, Freelin. Freelin would purchase the land from his siblings and raise his own family of six sons and two daughters. The land would continue to be owned by a Kentuckian for many more generations.

A century after James brought his family to Kentucky, his great-great grandson, Richard, would load his family on a steamboat and move them to Nashville, Tennessee. Richard's brother, Browder, would move his family westward to Kansas and on to Colorado. The other siblings, except one sister, would remain in Kentucky. Richard's five-year old daughter, Sophia, would remember the trip down the Cumberland River and her Kentucky ancestors, who would always hold a special place in her heart. A little girl, Irene, would be born in early 1930 in Kansas but by 1936. She would be the only living descendant of "Browd." In early 1937, Richard's son, Rollin, would become the executor of Freelin's estate and consequently Irene's guardian for her share of the estate

and continue as such for at least another fifteen years.

Through the years, Sophia would learn all she could of her Kentucky relatives, talk at family gatherings, and visit the Kentucky relatives. In the early 1990s, over seventy years after the family had come to Tennessee, Sophia's nephew, Kenneth, and his wife, Deborah, would take a trip to Wayne County, Kentucky, where they would visit the old family farm and research the family through the census, land deeds, court records, and various county records. They read of the surveys, the land grants, and the deeds. The years were bc&w (before computer and web).

In the spring of 1996, a group of genealogists led by Jeff Murphy organized the Kentucky Comprehensive Genealogy Database Project, which evolved into the KyGenWeb Project. In just a short time, other states would follow and soon thereafter the USGenWeb Project was off the ground and the success was assured by a core group of people, which included Jeff Murphy.¹ In time, Wayne County would have a GenWeb page and Deborah would add her name and email address to the surname list.

Another decade would pass and Irene's daughter, Donna, would once again try to find her Percy ancestors in Kentucky. It was a gift of love that she wanted to give her mother, who had had no contact with her paternal ancestors in over seventy years. In March 2007, a friend would suggest the Wayne County GenWeb page and Donna would email Deborah, who had heard the stories of Freelin, Richard, and Rollin visiting the ranch in Colorado.



1. Arco Percy, 2. Florence Percy, 3. Millard Percy, 4. Browd Percy, 5. Richard Percy, 6. Freeland Percy, 7. Dude (Ambrose) Percy, 8. Polly Percy, 9. Charlie Percy, 10. Dillard Percy (Deborah Percy)

By July 2007, Donna, a sister, and her mother came to Tennessee to visit the newly discovered cousins. It was an emotional time when Irene met Kenneth, the first cousin she had never met in person.

The group, which would include two of Sophia's daughters, would journey to Kentucky to visit the original Percy farm and meet first cousins once and twice removed. The Kentucky cousins would ask about great-grandfather Freelin's trunk, which was thought to have been taken to Tennessee. After everyone returned home, Kenneth and Deborah kept talking about the trunk and wondering if it could have contained a family Bible. A few weeks would pass and Deborah emailed the first-cousins asking if they could remember a trunk from their childhoods. Rollin's daughter in California responded that she had a trunk which she referred to as her mother's trunk and that she would look for a Bible. She found a box of old papers and a separate group of old letters and papers. With a few emails between California, Tennessee, and Kansas, it quickly became apparent that letters from Donna's great-grandmother, Ida, and mother, Ruth, to Rollin in the late 1930s and later regarding Irene's inheritance from Freelin's estate had been found. Just before Christmas 2007, the box was mailed to Kenneth and Deborah. They had been disappointed that a family Bible had not been found, but pleased that Donna would have family letters. A genealogy surprise awaited Kenneth and Deborah.

When they began sorting through the documents, they realized they were holding family copies of the original land grants, surveys, and deeds from James Percy to Freelin Percy they had researched nearly two decades earlier. In addition, they found other papers, including a license for a Kentucky still. The documents and letters covered the years from the early 1800s to the 1970s.

In April 2009, Kenneth and Deborah donated the Percy family papers to the Kentucky Historical Society's Special Collections. The papers had been kept in the Kentucky wilderness, survived the Civil War, moved to Tennessee where they stayed for nearly a half century, moved to California where they stayed nearly a quarter century, and were returned to Kentucky where they can be used as part of a Kentucky family history as well as the history of Kentucky for years to come. The papers have been preserved because one little girl remembered her Kentucky ancestors, another little girl wanted to know her Kentucky ancestors, others heard their stories and became curious, too, and they cared, asked, looked, and shared.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ History of the USGenWeb <http://www.usgenweb.org/about/history.shtml>

You Never Know What Will Turn Up

By Don Rightmyer

In the fall of 2008, I gave one of our family-history workshop presentations on “Early Forts and Stations in Kentucky.” I provided illustrations and descriptions of forts and stations in pioneer Kentucky so the audience could better understand the size and construction of those early wood structures. One image I used was a photo of a station in Mason County, Kentucky, built from a riverboat that had first been used to bring settlers down the Ohio River from Pennsylvania.¹

After my presentation that morning, two ladies in the audience came up to ask me questions. They both knew that they were descended from the man, George Mefford, who had built the station in Mason County, and while they were talking to me, each of them realized they were, of course, related to each other through that ancestor.

I recently had a totally unexpected part of my own family’s history show up in my email In Box and my mailbox at home. On a Monday morning when I came to work, I found an email entitled, “Old Friend,” from a person I had never met before. Two women who had grown up in Vine Grove, Kentucky (Hardin County) had read my article, “What Is Your Story?” in the Winter 2007 issue of *Kentucky Ancestors*.² My father had been a schoolmate of theirs and they had lost track of where he went in the post-World War II years. Through my own life story as I told it in that article, they realized that I was his son and, thankfully, emailed to get in touch.

After I brought them up to date on what my father had done after the war and his family history after they lost touch with him, I received an envelope in the mail a few days later. Inside was a two-sided program for a high school operetta and a photo of my father and a young woman in the school production with him. The contents of this envelope are those wonderful family-history surprises that I have often referred to in both this publication and in family-history talks that I have given.

It has always been my firm belief that you never know where a gem of your family’s history may come from. Sometimes you just need to know where to look, and sometimes those little nuggets of treasure show up totally unannounced and unexpected.

ENDNOTES

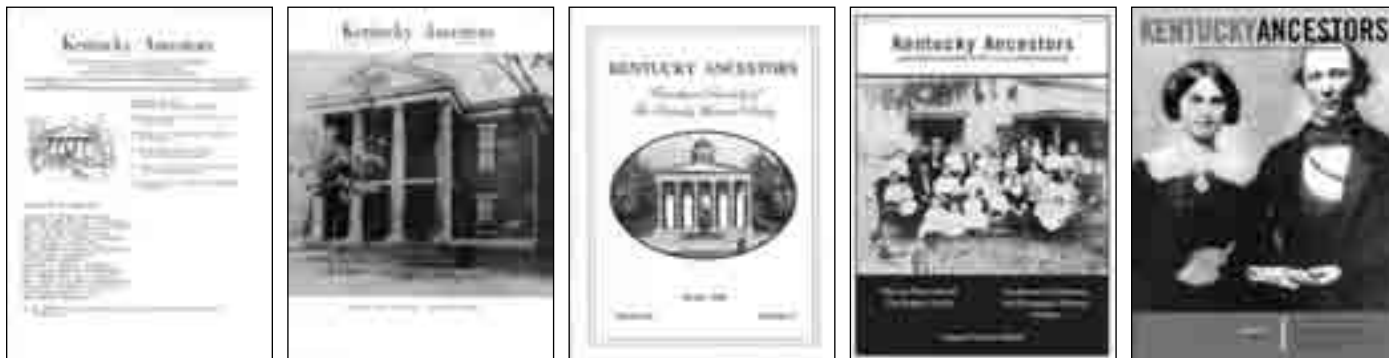
¹ *Kentucky Ancestors*, 2 (1966): 1-8.

² Don Rightmyer, “What Is Your Story?” *Kentucky Ancestors*, 43 (2007): 110.



H. D. Rightmyer, left; Martha Boyd, right. (Photo courtesy Martha [Boyd] Zillioux)

New Look for *Kentucky Ancestors*



The publications of the Kentucky Historical Society have contained a strong and committed emphasis on Kentucky family history and genealogy since the first *Register* was published in 1903. In July 1965, *Kentucky Ancestors* started with the editorial hope expressed on the last page: “Its reception by you will determine if there will be another issue.” *Kentucky Ancestors* has received an enthusiastic response from its readers ever since.

The Autumn 2008 issue showcased our fifth new design in the magazine’s forty-four-year history. The “look” has changed, both outside and inside, but the contents of *Kentucky Ancestors* will continue to be centered on articles and information designed to help our readers discover their own roots in place and time.

We are proud of this newest *Kentucky Ancestors* and hope you enjoy it, too. If you have any questions, suggestions, or submissions, please contact me at (502) 564-1792, ext. 4435 or by email at don.rightmyer@ky.gov.

VITAL STATISTICS

From *The Tri-Weekly Commonwealth*, Frankfort, Kentucky, 1854

The Tri-Weekly Commonwealth, p. 3, 10 July 1854,
Kentucky Military Institute
July 8, 1854

To his Excellency, L. W. Powell:

The undersigned, in accordance with law, begs leave to present you the names of the most distinguished Cadets, of their several classes for publication, viz:

First Class – D. W. Lindsey, J. B. Lindsey, Frankfort, Ky.

Second Class – W. S. Mitchell, New Orleans, La.; D. W. Price, Winchester, Ky.

Third Class – W. A. Brooks, San Augustine, Texas; W. O. Flournoy, McMinnville, Tenn.; E. R. Gale, Nashville, Tenn.; B. Timmons, Louisville, Ky.

Fourth Class – W. M. Washburn, Morehouse Parish, La.; W. L. Watkins, Jackson, Mo.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. T. P. Allen, Supt.

Medical Commencement – At the last Commencement of the Medical Department of Transylvania University, the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on the following gentlemen who had completed the prescribed course of studies, and undergone satisfactory examinations:

Philip H. Adams, of Texas; A. J. Beale, Ky.; S.

Woodson Coleman, Ky.; Chas. W. Cullen, Ky.; Elijah W. Cullen, Ky.; Lemuel W. Dampier, Miss.; Geo. W. Delbridge, Ala.; Joseph E. Dulaney, Tenn.; Robt. P. Kelley, Ky.; James M. Lewis, Ky.; Wm. D. Little, Ky.; Jas. B. Maitland, Ky.; James F. Martin, Ky.; Geo. W. Outler, Ala.; Jas. L. Palmer, Fla.; John H. Rabb, Ky.; Columbus L. Redwine, Ga.; Thos. Rowland, Miss.; Maurice A. Rust, Ger'y.; Joseph A. Saunders, Ky.; Joseph F. Saunders, Ky.; Travis C. Strong, Ala.; Hampton D. Sullivan, Ky.; Jas. P. Thomas, Miss.; Sam. W. Vertrees, Ky.; Calvin Well, S. C.; J. H. Wheeler, Ky.; Geo. M. Willmore, Ky.

The Tri-Weekly Commonwealth, p. 3, 19 July 1854 **Died**

On the evening of the 15th inst., in Shelby county, Ky., at the residence of her mother, Miss Bettie F. Meriwether.

On Monday, July 17th of consumption, at the residence of her brother-in-law, Dr. Abell, in Harrodsburg, whither she had gone for change of air and scene, Mrs. Hannah Ellen Johnson, wife of Ben F. Johnson, Esq., Postmaster, Frankfort.

In this county, on the 15th inst., in his 35th year, Mr. James M. Truell.

***The Tri-Weekly Commonwealth*, p. 3, 21 July 1854**

Death of Thomas J. Hood, Esq.

With unaffected regret do we announce the death of Thomas J. Hood, Esq., of Mt. Sterling. He died on Sunday morning last, at his farm about midway between Winchester and Mt. Sterling, after a few hours illness of cholera.

Died

At his residence in Winchester, on Saturday, the 17th day of June last, Francis B. Moss, aged 50 years.

Of cholera, on board the Sam Cloon, near Lexington, Mo., Mrs. Susan, wife of Mr. H. J. Higgins, of Lexington, Mo., and daughter of Mr. Benjamin Tyler, of Fayette county.

In Georgetown, July 13th, Victor J., son of Dr. Wm. Barlow.

At Oxford, July 14th, T. H. Ewing.

***The Tri-Weekly Commonwealth*, p. 3, 24 July 1854**
Married

In Plumas county, Oregon, May 23d, L. W. Gates, son of Rev. G. Gates, of Louisville, Ky., to Miss Francis E. Ward, daughter of Judge War, of Indian Valley.

On the evening of the 19th inst., by the Rev. Ed. F.

Berkley, Mr. Chas. F. Voss to Miss Mary E. Hickey, both of Lexington.

Obituary

Died, on Monday evening the 10th, day of July, 1854, Samuel Woodson, Esq., of Madisonville, Hopkins county, Kentucky, in the 69th year of his age. He was born in Goochland county, Virginia, when a boy he with his parents emigrated to Kentucky, and was placed in the clerk's office of the Mercer circuit and country courts, where he learned the business of a clerk. In 1807, after the formation of the county of Hopkins, he was appointed clerk of the courts of said county, and discharged the duties of those offices until the year 1851, about forty-four years.

He was married to Miss N. H. Allin, daughter of Major Thomas Allin, the clerk whose deputy he was, in December, 1807, and was left a widower by her decease in 1833. He afterwards married Miss Ware, daughter of the late Colonel Thompson Ware, of Bourbon county, and it pleased an all-wise Providence that he should again suffer the loss of his wife.

Died

On the 19th inst., at the house of Mr. A. Headley, in Fayette county, Mrs. Catharine Robb, in the 58th year of her age.

From *The Daily Hustler*, Madisonville, Kentucky, 1906 (Hopkins County)

***The Daily Hustler*, p. 1 (Every day except Monday)**
9 January 1906,

Clerk Mills Names His Deputies in the County

Appointments Made for the Convenience of the Country People

County Clerk W. T. Mills has appointed the following deputies in the various neighborhoods of the country for the convenience of the public:

S. A. Jones, Hanson; Frank D. Rash, Earlington;

Ernest Newton, Earlington; J. M. Bishop and A. E. Orton, Dawson; W. M. Orton, Old Salem; W. S. Rutherford and J. T. Ligon, Nebo; B. I. Southard, Southard's school house; C. C. Cobb, Ashbysburg; R. H. Pemberton and M. M. Veazey, Manitou; W. E. Scott, Carbondale; Al D. Jones, Veazey; W. L. Sisk, Mortons Gap; W. H. Furgerson, Charleston; Ben P. Earle, Charleston; Will Qualls, Howells school house; M. P. Buntin, Buntin's school house; R. A. Trent and Leslie B. Sisk, Dalton; J. B. Sory, Daniel Boone; W. E. Furgerson, Nortonville; and W. T. Lucas, Johnson Island.

***The Daily Hustler*, p. 3, 11 January 1906**

December Report of Madisonville Schools

Although the excitement incident to the approach of the holidays, as usual, was manifest, we had on the whole, an excellent month. Much interest was manifest in all the grades, and a large number secured a place on the Honor Roll. To do so requires not only an average in grades of 90 or more but 100 in deportment as well. Many pupils made the required grade whose deportment was not up to the standard.

Following is the roll:

B First grade. Lillian Reynolds 92 4-5, Jake Armstrong 92 3-5, Annie Majors 92 1-5, Maggie Lamb 91 2-5; Eva Stewart 91 and Raymond Mann 90 1-5.

A First grade. A. D. Sisk, J. 93 5-6, Bessie Kimble 92 5-6, Katherine King 92 2-3, Samuel Sights 92, Brice Solomon 90 5-6, Edith Gallagher 90 2-3, and Ria Ross 90 1-6.

Second grade. Nell Dulin 96 ½, Margaret Ross 95 ½, Bessie Bacon 90 1-6, Katherine Clift 91 1-6, Tella Kirkwood 93 5-6, Ethel Reynolds 90 ½, Mary Ross 91 1-6, Nellie Watson, 91 1-3, Margaret Whittinghill 94 2-3, Dollie Owens 92, Mattie Payne 93, Lorenzo Haves 91 103, Ruth Lynn 91 and William Thomson 90.

A Third grade. Vivian Brown 94 5-6, Artie Burton 95 1-6, Minnie Kirkwood 91 4-6, Percy Stewart 91 1-6, Carolyn Davis 93, Laura Jagoe 95 and Ethel Majors 90 1-6.

Fourth grade. Zena Shank 94, May Sights 93, Joyce Adams 93, Elzzie Belle Langley 90 and Myrtle Mathews 90.

Fifth grade. Alfie Thomson 90 2-3, Sallie Watwood 92 4-9, Miss Thomson was entitled to a place on the Roll last month but was omitted by mistake.

Sixth grade: Adalisa Shacklett 97, Georgie Morton 94, Gertrude Overall 93, 1-9, David Hibbs 92 2-9, David Ashby 91 5-9, Mary Dempsey 91 2-9, Beatrice Rhea 90 1-9, Georgie Hankins 90, Pauline Rhea 90, and Otto Butler 90.

Seventh grade. Ledie Cozart 98 2-9, Bonnie Ray Slak 96 7-8, Marian Rudy 96 4-3, Naomie Ashby 96, Ruth Clark 95 1-9, Ethel Nichols 94 4-9, Ruth Hibbs 92 1-9, Frances Overall 92 1-9, Nina Bassett 92, Hallie Livingston 90 5-9, and Mabel Prather 9[?]

Eighth grade. Halzie Henson 92, Mary Bell Todd 91 2-7, Frances Shackett 91 2-7 and Elsie Morrow 90 3-7.

High School

IX grade. Irby Shacklett 96 3-5.

X grade. Aileen Gord 93 2-5, Audrey Eastwood 93 2-3.

XI grade. Mary Shackett 91 2-5.

XII grade. Isabel Gardiner 97 and Elsie Gablinet 95.

This is a large number to attain so excellent a standard. We sincerely hope that it will continue to grow in size.

BOOK NOTES

Editor's Note: The books mentioned in "Book Notes," are available in the Martin F. Schmidt Research Library at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History.



A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors. By Franklin Carter Smith and Emily Anne Croom. (2003, reprint 2008. Pp. 250. \$34.95. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at www.genealogical.com)

There are many "how-to" books on genealogy research covering the very basics to the more challenging areas of family-history research. Those kinds of books are very useful, especially for the person new to the field. There are also several genealogy research books that provide in-depth information for more specialized groups. This

book, *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors*, will be especially helpful for anyone engaging in African American genealogical research. This is an excellent new edition of this book by Franklin Smith and Emily Croom. It will provide a wealth of valuable information covering subjects such as: census records; federal, state, and local genealogical sources; surnames; and special situations related to African American ancestors.

Two chapters of this book also deal with "the other family" – slaveholders whose family and business records may hold important information for discovering African American ancestors. The book concludes with three case-history chapters that use actual family-history research to further illustrate techniques and sources of genealogical information mentioned earlier in the book.

African-American Ancestors concludes with several appendices that provide a useful summary of national and state archives that researchers may need to consult for research.



Quicksheet: Citing Ancestry.com Databases & Images. Evidence! Style. By Elizabeth Shown Mills. (2009. Pp. 4. \$7.95. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at www.genealogical.com)

This handy research tool for citing information obtained from Ancestry.com databases and images will be helpful and convenient for genealogical researchers using that website. This is a nicely laminated four-page resource that covers material that can be obtained from all of the Ancestry.com databases. The author's first *Quicksheet* research guide was *Citing Online Historical Resources* (2008).



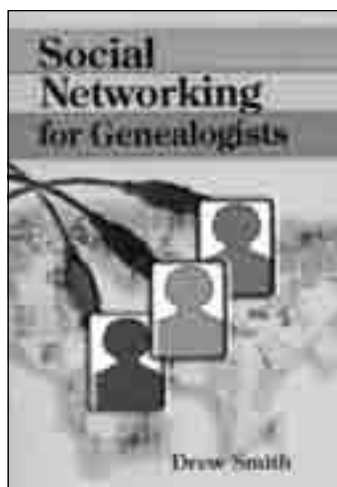
Stories Told in Stone: Cemetery Iconology. A Manual for Genealogy Research By Gaylord Cooper. (2009. Pp. 127. Softbound. \$15.00. To purchase, obtain order form from www.motesbooks.com, write to: MotesBooks, PO Box 6034, Louisville KY 40206-0034, phone: 502-594-8010, or fax: 502-891-0208)

Genealogist and family history researcher Gaylord Cooper has written a new book, *Stories in Stone: Cemetery Iconology*. The book is an excellent, conveniently formatted resource not only for understanding cemetery and gravestone information at home, but it will also easily go into a folder or briefcase for use on family history research field trips. *Stories Told in Stone* begins with a chapter on the history of cemeteries and gravestones and then the author provides several helpful chapters on how those two elements can provide a wealth of information concerning a person's identity and vital details about their life. The chapters include: how to find a cemetery, identifying your ancestors, and three chapters

on identifying and recording the material found on the gravestone itself. There are also several useful research tools sprinkled throughout the book which could prove handy no matter where the researcher is digging out important genealogical research information.

This book is recommended to any family history researcher who intends to look for those elusive family history details that can sometimes only be found in a cemetery.

Note: The author published an article in *Kentucky Ancestors* on the same subject – "Stories in Stone," *Kentucky Ancestors*, Vol. 43: 200-203.



Social Networking for Genealogists. By Drew Smith. (2009. Pp. 129. \$18.95. Paper. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953, or from the Internet at www.genealogical.com)

The Internet has made a significant impact on the availability of genealogical research materials and helpful Web sites on a myriad of genealogy how-to subjects. This new book by Drew Smith, an academic librarian with the University of South Florida and a regular contributor to *Digital Genealogist* magazine, will provide a useful guide to many people already using their computer and the Internet for genealogy, and to those who want to expand their genealogical activities in that area.

The chapters in this book provide readable and amply illustrated material on the following "networking concepts and services: blogs, collaborative editing, genealogy-specific social networks, message boards and mailing lists, photos and video sharing, podcasts, RSS feeds, tags, Wikis, and sharing personal libraries." If you're already involved in some of these networking activities, this new publication will be a useful guide to making the most of them in your genealogical networking.

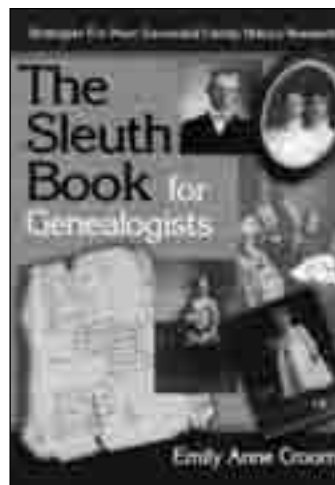


Portrait of Early Families: Frankfort Area Before 1860. Mary Nash Cox and Sallie Clay Lanham, eds. (2009. Pp. 215. \$45.00. \$7.00 shipping. Cloth. For copies, contact Sallie Clay Lanham, 8 Justice Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.)

Portrait of Early Families is a beautiful and well-written book that preserves the histories of families living in the Frankfort, Kentucky, area before the Civil War. Using the historical efforts of over 140 contributors, editors Mary Nash Cox and Sallie Clay Lanham have put together an interesting and wonderfully illustrated history of this time and place in Franklin County. Hopefully, this book will serve as an excellent motivation for other Kentucky communities to pull together their own historic images and family histories to preserve the early Kentucky story.

Civil War Quartermaster Claims, National Archives Record Group 92: Miscellaneous Claims from Taylor County, Kentucky and Surrounding Counties of Adair, Green, and Marion. By Betty J. Gorin (2009. Pp. 147. Softbound. \$22.00 [\$26 with tax and shipping]. To purchase, contact Betty J. Gorin, 112 Kensington Way, Campbellsville, KY 42718 or email: smithgorin@windstream.net)

This new book by historian Betty J. Gorin opens a small window into one piece of the wealth of Civil War and family-history materials that are available in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. This volume contains materials found in the Quartermaster Claims files. These claims were made to the Federal government to seek compensation for “supplies and stores provided to or taken by Union troops” during the Civil War. The author includes materials for fifty-seven different claims covering families from Adair, Casey, Green, Hart, Logan, and Taylor counties. Her introductory essay for the book contains some very helpful information on the procedures for gaining access to these materials at the archives and what kind of material and file organization will be found. The book is well indexed for people, places, and military units, and additional family-history material is included at the end of the book for some of the individual claims.



The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research. By Emily Anne Croom. (2000, reprint 2008. Pp. 290. \$34.95. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953 or from the Internet at www.genealogical.com)

The general “how-to” books on genealogy research published in recent years have been written in a more practical and helpful format than those of several years ago. This book by author Emily Anne Croom is particularly enjoyable to use because she views the process of doing genealogy research as similar to what a detective would do in solving a case. She is right because in most cases that aptly describes what it is like to dig out the necessary bits and pieces of relevant family information and piece them together accurately and in a meaningful way.

The failure and frustration of many

genealogy researchers is because they start out without a plan and then soon find themselves lost, not knowing where to turn next to find the information they need.

The Sleuth Book's basic outline for success (and the chapters in this book) is: Planning for Research, Broadening the Scope (Cluster Genealogy), Documentary Research, Gathering Information, Examining Evidence, Arranging Ideas, and Reporting. The author does an excellent job of fully describing and explaining each one of these important steps in doing family history. The book concludes with three chapters that clearly illustrate how the family-history researcher puts these steps into action.

The Sleuth Book for Genealogists is recommended for both beginning and more advanced genealogy researchers.



In Search of Our Roots: How 19 Extraordinary African Americans Reclaimed Their Past. By Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (2009. Pp. 424. Cloth. \$27.50. New York: Crown Publishers.)

In Search of Our Roots is an excellent new book about African American family history and genealogy research. Historian Henry Louis Gates Jr., recounts how he worked with nineteen African Americans over a period of three years in discovering their own past, and the book includes the stories shown on the two-part PBS series, *African American Lives*.

In addition to thorough documentary genealogical research, DNA samples have also been used to help the African Americans included in this book to break through the major barrier created by lost surnames and individual identities as a direct result of slavery. The final chapter, "How to Trace Your Own Roots," provides concise guidelines and

a bibliography of books, articles, and Web sites that will help readers begin their own family-history research.

Civil War African American Soldiers from Taylor and Green Counties, Kentucky in the 5th United States Colored Cavalry and the 107th and 108th Colored Infantry. By Betty J. Gorin (2009. Pp. 21. Softbound. \$8.00 [\$10.00 total to include shipping and tax]. To purchase, contact Betty J. Gorin, 112 Kensington Way, Campbellsville, KY 42718 or email: smithgorin@windstream.net)

Taylor County historian, Betty Jane Gorin, has compiled a very useful monograph on African American Civil War soldiers from Taylor and Green counties. This material was hand copied from the Descriptive Books held in the National Archives (photocopying was not permitted). Men listed include soldiers in the 5th United States Colored Cavalry, and the 107th and 108th U. S. Colored Infantry regiments. These African American military records are being copied at the National Archives and will be available on microfilm for public research as the project is completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 Family-History Workshop Schedule

Family-History Workshops are held the second Saturday of each month at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, 100 West Broadway, in Frankfort, Ky.

Each month, the workshop format will be:

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.—Kentucky Genealogical Society Program

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.—Lunch (see below for details)

12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.—Kentucky Historical Society Program

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—(optional) Research on your own in the KHS Library

1:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.—(optional) Ky. Technology in Genealogy Users Group (KTIG) Program (free.)

There is no charge to attend the Family-History Workshops, but registration by noon of the preceding Friday is required. An optional box lunch may be reserved at the time of registration for \$6.00 (payable at the door). To register or to get more information, call the KHS Library reference desk at 502-564-1792, ext. 4460, or email refdesk@ky.gov.

July 11, 2009

10:30 am - “Overcoming Genealogical Roadblocks”
Panel Discussion with Deborah Lord Campisano, Mary E. Clay, Betty Darnell, and Roger Futrell

Back by popular demand—a panel of experienced genealogists will offer their recommendations for strategies that may help you resolve difficult family-tracing problems and get you beyond those genealogical dead ends.

12:30 pm - “Examples of Brick Wall Breakthrough”
Techniques & Tips” Panel Discussion
Hear the panelists describe how they overcame some of their most daunting family-history-research

obstacles.

Optional KTIG Meeting: An overview of Family Tree Maker genealogy software.

August 8

10:30 am - “Finding Genealogical Treasure in the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*” by Lynne Hollingsworth
The Register, in continuous publication since 1903, contains more than just the scholarly articles on Kentucky history it is known for today. A wide range of information on family history and genealogy also graced its pages in the years before publication of *Kentucky Ancestors* began in 1965. Lynne Hollingsworth of the Kentucky Historical Society will

describe how to effectively mine *The Register* for its “genealogical gems.”

12:30 pm - “Kentucky’s Experience in the Revolutionary War” by Don Rightmyer

Authors Richard Taylor and Neal Hammon call it “Virginia’s Western War.” What was life like for those living in the trans-Appalachian part of Virginia during the Revolutionary War? Don Rightmyer, editor of *Kentucky Ancestors*, will discuss that period and what it meant for those living here during that time. This talk is a follow-on to his earlier workshop on “Early Forts and Stations in Kentucky.”

Optional KTIG Meeting: Using internet mapping and geographic information system tools, including GPS technology, Google Earth and local.live.com to research the history of places and document how they have changed.

September 12

10:30 am - “Genealogy Basics, Part 1”

12:30 pm - “Genealogy Basics, Part 2”

Instructor: to be announced

Get suggestions about how to start the process of researching and documenting family history. The morning presentation will describe proper techniques for basic research, while the afternoon session will offer information on resources, repositories, and helpful tips.

Optional KTIG Meeting: Online Genealogy Resources – a quick overview of the key internet offerings for researching your family history.

October 10

“Overview of State and Local Records Archives in North Carolina” by Roger Futrell, and “Researching Native American Heritage” by Barbara Davis

November 14

“Documenting Cemeteries” by Mike Peters, and “Using Aerial Photograph Archives at KDLA” by Lisa Thompson

December 12

“Beyond the Basics: Digging Deeper into Census Records, Court Records, and Library Resources” by Deborah Lord Campisan

2009 Family-History Workshop Schedule

Annual Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas

2-5 September 2009. This meeting’s theme is “Passages through Time.” For further information, go to www.fgs.org, or write to: FGS Federation of Genealogical Societies, P. O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940

Cable 10 Recordings of KGS/KHS Family-History Workshops

The following Family-History Workshop recordings are available on DVD from Frankfort's Cable 10 Studios for \$20.00 per workshop (usually consists of two (2) one-hour DVDs). You may order these DVDs by contacting Libby Andersen at 502-352-4480; payment in advance is required. Please specify the workshop date and title when placing your order.

2006 Programs

3/11/06	Genealogy Collections at Kentucky Public Libraries
4/8/06	Early Kentucky Divorce Records/ Researching Female Ancestors (2 Discs)
5/13/06	The Draper Manuscripts/Researching Manuscripts and Documents (2 Discs)
7/8/06	Family Medical History
8/12/06	Genealogy Collections at Public Libraries, II
9/9/06	Cemetery-Preservation/Newspaper Research Resources (2 Discs)
9/16/06	2006 KHS Cemetery Preservation Workshop
10/14/06	Genealogical Publishing, Pt. 1 and Pt. 2
12/9/06	Genealogy Collections at Kentucky Libraries, III

2007 Programs

2/10/07	Genealogy Software: FTM/PAF/Legacy/ TMG/Reunion (2 Discs)
3/10/07	Researching Marriage Records/ Researching Probate & Estate Records (2 Discs)
4/14/07	Genealogy Basics for Beginners (2 Discs)
5/12/07	Researching Jewish Ancestry/Researching Immigration Records (2 Discs)
6/9/07	Researching Early Kentucky Land Records/Researching Tax Lists (2 Discs)
7/14/07	Revolutionary War Records/Early Settlement Records (2 Discs)
8/11/07	Newspaper Microfilm Archives/Sons of the American Revolution Library (2 Discs)
10/13/07	Finding Your Civil War Ancestors/ Tennessee Records Research (2 Discs)
12/8/07	Genealogy Basics for Beginners (2 Discs)

2008 Programs

1/12/08	Oral History Basics/Researching Oral History Collections (2 Discs)
2/9/08	African American Genealogical Research/ Kentucky's Underground Railroad (2 Discs)
4/12/08	Genealogy Basics (2 Discs)
5/10/08	Researching Land Records/Land Platting and Deed-Mapping Software (2 Discs)
6/14/08	Russellville's Black Bottom Project/KHS Library Resources (2 Discs)
7/12/08	Brick Walls in Genealogical Research/ Finding Female Ancestors (2 Discs)
8/9/08	Researching Court Records/Legal Basics and Legal Terminology (2 Discs)
9/13/08	Kentucky's Early Forts & Stations/ Kentucky Irish Pioneers (2 Discs)*
10/11/08	Online Databases for Genealogical Research*
10/11/08	Researching LDS Records
11/08/08	Researching African American Businesses/Using Family Folklore (2 Discs)
12/13/08	Genealogy Basics for Beginners (2 Discs)

2009 Programs

1/10/09	Kentucky's First Vital Statistics Law/ Kentucky's Fighting Men in the Civil War
2/7/09	Abraham Lincoln's Heritage/The Genealogy of Mary Todd Lincoln
3/14/09	Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Archives and Kentucky's Catholic Archives/How to Research Church Record Repositories
4/11/09	Genealogy Basics (2 Discs)

** Not recorded by Cable 10; DVD available only through KGS/KHS for \$5.00 per program.*

KENTUCKY ANCESTORS

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AUTHOR GUIDELINES

Manuscript Preparation

Kentucky Ancestors is the quarterly Kentucky family-history and genealogy publication of the Kentucky Historical Society. Review of past issues will give authors an idea of the kinds of materials that would be of interest. Submission of material providing primary source genealogical material is always of interest as well as family-history articles detailing the experiences of people moving from other states into Kentucky and those who left Kentucky and moved on to the West or other parts of the country.

Please prepare your manuscript in Microsoft Word. Endnotes should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th Edition, and use the genealogical standard format of day/month/year, such as 10 May 1842. Manuscripts should be submitted by either email to don.rightmyer@ky.gov or on CD to:

Don Rightmyer, Editor
Kentucky Ancestors
 Kentucky Historical Society
 100 W. Broadway
 Frankfort, KY 40601-1931

Our publication schedule will be January, April, July, and October of each year. Authors should submit their prospective manuscript for review and consideration at least ten weeks prior to the quarterly publication dates.

Five copies of the magazine in which an article is published will be provided to the author upon publication.

Image Scanning Guidelines

Please provide digital images of any photos that can be used with your article. We consider your old photographs a part of the historical record so we ask that you send them to us in their existing condition. We normally do not publish photographs that have been altered, digitally or otherwise.

Here are guidelines for scanning your photographs. Scan photos as grayscale (black and white). Images may be sent as email or by CD. If you will be sending them to us on a CD, save them as .tif files. If you will be sending them by email, save them as .jpg files. The following chart is suggested as minimum resolutions (DPI).

Original	DPI
8x10	350
5x7	520
4x6	650
3x5	820
2x3	1300

Following these guidelines allows the production staff to resize the images as necessary to enhance their use in illustrating your article.

Questions? Please contact the editor, Don Rightmyer, at 502-564-1792, Ext. 4435, by mail at the Kentucky Historical Society, Attn: *Kentucky Ancestors*, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601-1931, or by email at Don.rightmyer@ky.gov.

MYSTERY ALBUM

If you recognize the people or the location of these photos or can provide any information about them, please contact:

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Man holding umbrella. Believed to have been around the end of the nineteenth century near Henderson, Kentucky.



Men and women stand on a platform at an unknown train station on 7 May 1898.



Mrs. Eleanor Churchill showing an unknown man yarn on warpers, ca. 1950.



J. W. Samuels, sitting in office with an unknown man in downtown Louisville, ca. 1920s.

Mystery Album Photo Solved

Thanks to two of our *Kentucky Ancestors* readers, we have identified the photo ("unidentified building and waterfront, ca. 1905") at the top of page 52 in the Autumn 2008 issue. David E. Dearing of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Ms. Marcia K. Ford of Kokomo, Indiana, both identified the photo as being the Old St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, Indiana. Thanks to both of them for helping us identify one of the photos in our digital collection.